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EDUCATION IN CONNECTICUT DATA ANALYSIS

Charters show higher scores

“Ultimately, it comes down to good schools, and we need every school to be a solid school.”

— Ajit Gopalakrishnan, chief performance officer for the state Department of Education

Hartford’s Open Choice students perform better on standardized tests than those in public schools

By **Seamus McAvoy**
Hartford Courant

Hartford students who attend Open Choice schools in surrounding towns tend to demonstrate higher proficiency on standardized tests than Hartford students who attend neighborhood schools, but grow at comparable rates, according to state data obtained by the Courant.

Differences in academic achievement between Hartford students in Choice programs and those in Hartford Public neighborhood schools is of particular relevance as the state’s landmark Sheff vs. O’Neill settlement, hinged largely on expansion of the Open

Choice program, is in front of state lawmakers for approval.

The Courant examined a 2020 state data set that lists proficiency rates and two growth metrics on the state’s Smarter Balanced Assessment, as well as proficiency rates and average scores on the SAT, for Hartford students disaggregated for school setting.

The Courant also examined a state Department of Education study, dated March 2015, that analyzed the performance on the

Connecticut Mastery Test (the state’s previous standardized test) of two cohorts of Choice program students from Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury.

“To us, [the 2020 data] confirms the findings from [the 2015 study], that students in Choice programs are higher achieving and, in general, we’re seeing that growth in charters [charter schools] is stronger than some of the other

Turn to Scores, Page 3



MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

READY FOR A TRIM

Trees encroaching on power lines along Birge Road in Bristol are cut back through a new Eversource initiative using what they call “scorecards” to assess which areas in the state need work at a given point in time. Eversource’s tree scorecards are snapshots of scheduled maintenance and include information on power outages and blocked roads caused by downed trees and branches. The company says its initiative shows that “thoughtful tree work can help to strengthen the grid.” **Story, Connecticut, Page 1**

State police recruits fired for cheating, official says

By **Jesse Leavenworth** and **Christopher Keating**
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Eight state police recruits were fired Tuesday after an investigation into cheating at the academy, police said.

“This was a very unfortunate set of circumstances, and allegations such as these are not taken lightly,” said Colonel Stavros Mellekas, the state police commander. “From start to finish, we demand that our recruits maintain the integrity of the Connecticut state police.”

The allegations centered on alleged cheating on an exam.

“The men and women of the state police are expected to hold themselves to the highest standards in law enforcement,” Mellekas said. “When those standards are not met, a process of review must be followed to determine if recruits are worthy of earning the title of ‘State Trooper.’”

State police union executive

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ELECTION 2022 GUBERNATORIAL RACE

Stefanowski counts on support from suburban ‘Moms for Bob’

Target demographic could be key to GOP success in November

By **Daniela Altamari**
Hartford Courant

Two years ago, as the coronavirus was beginning its devastating march across Connecticut, Sarah Matthews, the head of the Republican Party in Fairfield, watched Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont’s daily briefings with admiration and respect.

As the crisis wore on, Matthews’ appreciation curdled. “In the beginning, I really thought Gov. Lamont was trying to do the right thing,” said the 37-year-old mother of three. “He was telling us what we needed to know, and I appreciated that. But now, it’s changed. ... There’s a real overreach in state control.”

Matthews’ concerns about the governor aren’t limited to what she calls “mask choice” and other pandemic-related policies. She’s also worried about a host of other issues — state control of local zoning decisions, the perception of rising crime, inflation — and says Lamont’s



Connecticut Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Stefanowski is counting on the discontent of Republican women to help him win in November. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

approach has fallen short.

Matthews is part of a legion of Republican women enlisted by Republican candidate for governor Bob Stefanowski. Under the banner of “Moms for Bob,” the women are holding meetings in suburban coffee shops and living rooms across the state to convince friends and neighbors, including a vital block of unaffiliated voters, to support the Republican challenger.

Suburban women have been a coveted demographic for politicians since the mid-1990s, when “soccer moms” helped Democrat Bill Clinton win a second term in the White House. (In Connecticut, Republican Linda McMahon tried a similar strategy in her 2012 run for U.S. Senate, without success.)

Last November, Republican

Turn to Moms, Page 3

WAR IN UKRAINE

2 sides meet as carnage grinds on

Ukrainians see signs of compromise in talks with Russia

By **Andrea Rosa**
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine said it saw possible room for compromise Tuesday in talks with Russia, while Moscow’s forces stepped up their bombardment of Kyiv, and an estimated 20,000 civilians fled the desperately encircled port city of Mariupol by way of a humanitarian corridor.

The fast-moving developments on the diplomatic front and on the ground came on the 20th day of Russia’s invasion, as the number of Ukrainians fleeing the country amid Europe’s heaviest fighting since World War II eclipsed 3 million.

A top Ukrainian negotiator, presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak, described the latest round of talks with the Russians, held via videoconference, as “very difficult and viscous” and said there were “fundamental contradictions” between the two sides, but added that “there is certainly room for compromise.” He said the talks will continue Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, another aide to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ihor Zhovkva, struck a more optimistic note, saying that the negotiations had become “more constructive” and that Russia had softened its stand by no longer airing its demands that Ukraine surrender.

Meanwhile, large explosions thundered across Kyiv before dawn from what Ukrainian authorities said were artillery strikes, as Russia’s bombardment of the capital appeared to become more systematic and edged closer to the city center, smashing apartments, a subway station and other civilian sites.

Zelenskyy said barrages hit

Turn to Ukraine, Page 2

Joining the fight

While more than 3 million people have fled Ukraine since Russia’s invasion, a small but growing number are heading in the other direction. At first they were foreign volunteers, Ukrainian expatriate men returning to fight and people delivering aid. Now, increasingly, women are also going back. **Page 4**

■ Fox News cameraman, Ukrainian journalist killed during attack. **Page 4**

Lawmakers prioritize children’s mental health

The General Assembly will consider legislation including efforts to expand mental health support for student athletes and to shore up the child care industry. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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FROM PAGE ONE

Board revokes ex-Hartford doctor’s license — again

By Lisa Backus
Conn. Health I-Team

The state Medical Examining Board revoked the Connecticut medical license of a physician for a second time Tuesday after he failed to follow the terms of reinstatement, including seeking help for alcohol abuse and submitting to random urine screenings.

John D. Lynch II, MD, was granted a reinstatement

by the board in January 2020. Under the terms, Lynch could have started practicing in February 2021, documents said. But by June 2021, a private therapist issued a report to the state Department of Public Health indicating that Lynch “was not able to practice medicine with reasonable skill or safety.”

DPH documents also said that since February 2021, Lynch has not attended

individual or support group treatment meetings, failed to submit random urine screens and failed to participate in a required clinical skills evaluation. A therapist also reported that Lynch was off his regular medication due to the cost and would likely not be able to safely practice unless he resumed the medication, documents said.

In 2012, the board revoked Lynch’s license after he was fired from his job as an emer-

gency department physician with Hartford HealthCare for coming to work smelling of alcohol, documents said.

He now lives in Virginia and was not practicing in Connecticut when the violations of the probation were reported to the DPH, documents said. The board temporarily suspended his Connecticut medical license on Nov. 16 until a hearing on the allegations could take place. It is unclear if he

is practicing medicine in Virginia.

Lynch or his attorney did not attend the hearing which took place on Dec. 1, DPH officials said. Under state law, Lynch is considered to have admitted the allegations since he did not respond to the charges or attend the hearing, DPH officials said.

In other business, the board also granted a medical license to a pediatric

ophthalmologist who has completed all of the requirements except a two-year graduate medical education program. Mariana Flores, MD, will be working at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

This story was reported under a partnership with the Connecticut Health I-Team (c-hit.org), a nonprofit news organization dedicated to health reporting.

Ukraine

from Page 1

four multistory buildings in the city and killed dozens.

A senior U.S. defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss the Pentagon’s assessment, said that the Russians were using long-range fire to hit civilian targets inside Kyiv but that their ground forces were making little to no progress around the country. The official said Russian troops were still about 9 miles from Kyiv’s center.

The official said there are indications Russia believes it may need more troops or supplies than it has in Ukraine, and is considering ways to get more resources into the nation. The official did not elaborate.

Before Tuesday’s talks, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Moscow would press its demands that Ukraine drop its bid to join NATO, adopt a neutral status and “demilitarize.”

In a statement that seemed to signal potential grounds for agreement with Moscow, Zelenskyy told European leaders gathered in London that he realizes NATO has no intention of accepting Ukraine.

“We have heard for many years about the open doors, but we also heard that we can’t enter those doors,” he said. “This is the truth, and we have simply to accept it



A fire rages inside a building after an attack by Russian forces Tuesday in a residential area of Kyiv. ARIS MESSINIS/GETTY-AFP

as it is.”

NATO does not admit nations with unsettled territorial conflicts. Zelenskyy has repeatedly said in recent weeks that he realizes NATO isn’t going to offer membership to Ukraine and that he could consider a neutral status for his coun-

try but needs strong security guarantees from both the West and Russia.

Efforts to evacuate civilians and deliver aid were underway around Ukraine. The Red Cross said it was seeking to ferry people in about 70 buses from the northeastern town of Sumy,

near the Russian border.

The exodus from Mariupol marked the biggest evacuation yet from the southern city of 430,000, where officials say a week-long siege has killed more than 2,300 people.

Kyrylo Tymoshenko, a senior aide to Zelenskyy,

said that about 20,000 people managed to leave Mariupol in 4,000 private vehicles via a designated safe corridor leading to the city of Zaporizhzhia.

Fighting has intensified on Kyiv’s outskirts in recent days, and air raid sirens wailed inside the capi-

tal. The mayor imposed a curfew extending through Thursday morning.

Flames shot out of a 15-story apartment building and smoke choked the air as firefighters climbed ladders to rescue people. The assault blackened several floors of the building, ripped a hole in the ground outside and blew out windows in neighboring apartment buildings. Rescue workers said at least one person was killed.

“Yesterday we extinguished one fire, today another. It is very difficult,” a firefighter who gave only his first name, Andriy, said outside the building, tears falling from his eyes. “People are dying, and the worst thing is that children are dying. They haven’t lived their lives and they have already seen this.”

City authorities also tweeted an image of the blown-out facade of a downtown subway station that had been used as a bomb shelter and said trains would no longer stop at the station.

In the country’s east, Russian forces launched more than 60 strikes overnight on Ukraine’s second-largest city, Kharkiv, according to regional administration chief Oleh Sinehubov, who said the bodies of dozens of civilians were pulled from destroyed apartment buildings.

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LOTTERY

Tuesday, March 15

PLAY3 DAY

1 2 9 WB: 5

PLAY4 DAY

8 2 9 3 WB: 9

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

MONDAY’S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

2 2 0 WB: 3

PLAY4 NIGHT

4 3 4 6 WB: 7

CASH 5

1 20 23 28 31

LUCKY FOR LIFE

3 10 12 22 47 LB: 14

Friday’s est. Lotto jackpot: \$1.4 million

Tonight’s est. Powerball jackpot: \$133 million

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FROM PAGE ONE

Recruits

from Page 1

director Andrew Matthews, who has often clashed with top administrators, agreed. “If you’re going to cheat on a test, what else would you cheat on?” Matthews said recently. “You can’t really do the job of a state trooper.”

The remaining 53 members of the 131st Training Troop are scheduled to graduate on March 24.

Requirements for state police trainees include “excellent moral character.” Trooper trainees are paid wages equivalent to \$50,000 annually, and upon graduation, the salary jumps to \$61,257, according to the agency’s website.

Tuesday’s firings come at a difficult time when state police need to fill the ranks of a depleted staff.

Sworn state police personnel, not including the 53 remaining trainees, now total 895, down from a peak of 1,283 in 2009 under then-Republican Gov. M. Jodi Reil. Gov. Dannel P. Malloy battled with the troopers over the state-mandated minimum of 1,248 troopers, and that number was erased from state law in a budget implementation bill during Malloy’s tenure.

The state police are facing a wave of retirements before July 1 — the key date when changes in pension and health benefits will begin as

cost-saving measures for the state. Employees who retire before that date will keep the more-lucrative benefits that they currently have.

The need is particularly acute in the state police, where eight troopers and supervisors retired as of March 1 in advance of the upcoming benefit changes. In addition, 52 troopers and supervisors have declared they will be retiring on April 1.

State Rep. Greg Howard, a Stonington police detective who serves as the ranking House Republican on the legislature’s public safety committee, said the recruits need to meet the highest standards.

“We need new troopers, but the reality is we need good troopers,” Howard said in an interview. “What we don’t need is people not of the right moral character that are just going to stain the profession. We know an overwhelming majority of police officers meet a high ethical and moral bar every single day in this state. We all know that it only takes one to stain the profession and have a profound effect. As much as we need troopers on the road, we need troopers of great moral and ethical standards and character.”

Following the death of George Floyd while handcuffed in police custody in Minneapolis, some officers said that morale dropped after public blowback against the police.

“When you watch the ebb and flow of police morale over the last couple of decades, you see that when police morale is low, recruitment becomes a bit more challenging,” said Howard, who has been an officer for the past 20 years. “Logic would dictate that when you have a smaller group of applicants, you end up with the potential for a lower-caliber applicant to be hired. I hope this is not indicative of an issue that we’re going to see in the coming years.”

Public Safety Commissioner James Rovella, who oversees the state police, has been looking for raises as a way to retain the command staff because nine of the top 10 officers are eligible to retire as of July 1. That includes one colonel, three lieutenant colonels, and six majors. Captains and lieutenants have their own union and are not included in the non-union total.

The police pay raises require approval by various levels at the state Department of Administrative Services and the governor’s budget office, which oversees funding for the overall \$24.2 billion state budget for the fiscal year that starts on July 1.

The retirements are prompted by an agreement that was negotiated by the State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition, known as SEBAC, in 2017.

Employees retiring before July 1 will receive

their current benefits that include a guaranteed minimum 2% cost-of-living increase in their annual pensions, as well as free health care premiums for some retirees and spouses. After that date, there will be no guaranteed 2% minimum COLA and health care would cost roughly \$80 per month or about \$1,000 per year, officials said. The changes also include a longer wait for a cost-of-living adjustment for pension benefits, including waiting 30 months for their first COLA after retirement — instead of nine months.

The eight officers who retired March 1 included four troopers, two sergeants, one lieutenant and one captain. Those who have declared they are retiring on April 1 include one lieutenant colonel, three majors, four captains, four lieutenants, 10 sergeants and 30 troopers.

The state police department has been hiring troopers at a steady pace during the Lamont administration, simply to keep up with retirements. Since Lamont took office in January 2019, a total of 301 troopers of all ranks have retired, Matthews said. The SEBAC agreement of 2017 also changed the eligibility for a hazardous duty pension to 25 years, up from the current 20 years — prompting some troopers to retire as soon as they reach 20 years, he said.

Scores

from Page 1

Choice programs as well,” said Ajit Gopalakrishnan, chief performance officer for state Department of Education.

“It’s interesting to me that we did this with our old assessment, we did this with our new assessments, and we’re seeing kind of confirming evidence,” Gopalakrishnan said.

Standardized test scores are not the only metric for measuring academic success — and an imperfect one, critics argue — but allow for large-scale analysis.

The Sheff settlement would meet all demand for Hartford students who want to attend a school other than their racially segregated neighborhood school by 2028-29, and also release the state from more than three decades of litigation and court oversight.

While charter schools are considered part of the broader Choice landscape, they are not a focus of the Sheff settlement. Under the agreement, the state would primarily increase seats at interdistrict magnet schools, technical schools and suburban schools through financial incentives to those districts which expand Open Choice participation.

The settlement explicitly seeks to address the levels of ethnic and racial segregation in Hartford schools, which were deemed to violate the state constitution by the Connecticut Supreme Court in 1996.

Lawmakers have touted the merits of Choice and the benefits to students who learn in an integrated setting, but some have voiced concerns related to unintended consequences.

Of the Hartford students attending the city’s neighborhood schools who took the Smarter Balanced assessment in 2018-19, 16.5% were proficient in English Language Arts.

That number was 29.5% for Hartford students attending an interdistrict magnet school, 29.9% for Hartford students attending a suburban school through the Open Choice program and 49.6% for Hartford students attending a charter school.

Similar disparities exist in the math section of the Smarter Balanced assessment. In neighborhood schools, 11.5% of Hartford students who took the test in 2018-19 were proficient.

Nineteen percent of Hartford students were proficient in interdistrict magnet schools, 23.5% were proficient in Open Choice schools and 42.6% were proficient in charter schools.

The disparities hold for Hartford students who took the SAT in 2018-19. Fourteen percent of neighborhood school students met proficiency on the English Language Arts portion, with an average score of 397.

In magnet schools, 37.6% of Hartford students met proficiency and scored 450 on average. In Open Choice schools, 41% of students met proficiency and scored 456 on average, while 44.2% of charter school students met proficiency with a 466 average.

Both proficiency and average scores were lower across the board on the math portion of the SAT, but the decrease was least pronounced among charter school students, 39% of whom were proficient.

Just 1.5% of neighborhood school students met proficiency on this portion, with an average score of 377, compared to 15.8% and 19.1% of magnet and Open Choice students, respectively.

Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, superintendent of Hartford Public Schools, was not available for an interview to analyze the data and underlying factors.

Growth

While the data suggests a disparity in proficiency levels between Hartford students in neighborhood schools and Hartford students in Choice programs, the disparity in growth statistics are minimal.

The state Department of Education measures two main growth statistics: 1) growth rate, which is the

percentage of students who met their individual growth targets, and 2) average percentage of target achieved, which is the percentage of target that was achieved by students on average.

These two statistics are closely related; schools with high growth rates tend to have higher averages of target achieved.

These statistics are criteria measures, not relative measures, Gopalakrishnan said. “We don’t need to have winners and losers, like some growth models across the country,” he said. “Everybody can be high growth, which is what we’re after.”

On the 2018-19 match section of the Smarter Balanced assessment, growth rates were actually higher for neighborhood school students than Hartford students in magnet schools, at 28.9% and 26.1% respectively.

Open Choice students registered a growth rate of 33.6%, and charter schools again led the way with 34.5%.

The disparities were also slim in the English Language Arts portion. Twenty-seven percent of neighborhood school students met their growth targets, compared to 27.7% of Open Choice students.

In magnet schools, 31.5% of students hit their growth targets. Charter schools led with 36.1% of students meeting their growth targets.

Study

In the 2015 study, state Department of Education officials looked at city students in two grade cohorts: Cohort 1, which includes third-grade students in 2010 and follows them through fifth-grade in 2020; and Cohort 2, which includes sixth-grade students in 2010 and follows them through eighth-grade in 2012.

The cohorts included students from Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury.

The study looked at the performance, in terms of proficiency and percentage who met the target goals, of the two cohorts on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), the state’s standardized test which was phased out by 2015-16. Results were disaggregated by school setting.

“Public charter schools alone showed statistically meaningful gains at or above Proficient and Goal levels on the CMT.” 2015 CSDE study, “Evaluating the Academic Performance of Choice Programs in Connecticut”

As an ex post facto study, the results come with the caveat that they do not allow for causal attribution.

According to the study, students in Cohort 2 in “public charter schools alone showed statistically meaningful gains at or above Proficient and Goal levels on the CMT.”

In Cohort 1, the study’s results showed statistically meaningful gains in terms of proficiency for students in RESC-operated magnet schools and Open Choice programs. Gains were nearly statistically significant for magnet school students in meeting CMT goal levels.

The relatively strong growth numbers among charter schools, in both the study and the 2020 data set, potentially adds a wrinkle to discussions over the Sheff settlement.

As students of color traditionally make up the overwhelming majority of the population at inner-city charter schools, they are not seen as an antidote to racial segregation that has plagued city schools in Hartford and elsewhere for decades.

Gopalakrishnan notes that there are “good schools everywhere” in Connecticut, including in the state’s Alliance Districts, which serve the bulk of Connecticut’s students of color and students from low-income families.

“Ultimately, it comes down to good schools, and we need every school to be a solid school,” Gopalakrishnan said.

Seamus McAvoy may be reached at smcavoy@courant.com



Colonel Stavros Mellekas, the highest-ranking state trooper, said that eight state police recruits were fired following a cheating scandal on an exam at the police academy. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Moms

from Page 1

Glen Youngkin harnessed the power of suburban and rural women voters in his winning bid to become governor of Virginia. Youngkin emphasized education by tapping into the frustrations of parents who had grappled with pandemic-related school closings and mask mandates for months.

“Any Republican running in the midterms has a lens on what happened in Virginia,” said Betsy Fischer Martin, executive director of the Women & Politics Institute at American University. “You’re going to see that playbook being used a lot. Reaching out to moms, especially moms of young children, is going to be a key message point.”

The institute released a poll last week with the Barbara Lee Family Foundation documenting the toll the pandemic has taken on women voters: nearly 50% of women said they feel more burned out than usual and 40% said life “will never go back to normal” due to the pandemic.

Such pessimism, Fischer Martin said, “does not bode well for incumbents.”

The national survey, which has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points, found that 53% of women believe elected officials let people down.

Stefanowski is hoping to capitalize on that broad discontent, and his campaign views Moms for Bob as key to that effort.

“Masks in school have become a call to action for a lot of moms who were frustrated that their voices weren’t being heard, and they wanted the same choice for their kids in school that they have almost everywhere else in their towns,” said Liz Kuranto-

wicz, general consultant to Stefanowski’s campaign. “Education also came into focus during the pandemic, with a lot of moms taking on teaching at home.”

Kelly Scinto, the mother of four children under 12, became frustrated with Lamont’s executive orders, which were designed to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. (The statewide requirement for masks in all public schools and child care centers was rescinded on Feb. 28, as cases of COVID-19 fell sharply.)

“We have heard Lamont loud and clear with his taking away parental choice and putting it into the hands of the government instead of the parents with mask choice,” said Scinto, who lives in Fairfield and owns a upscale clothing resale shop called Next Up. “I was really turned off by all of that, and I’m ready to support Bob and help in any way that he needs in order to get him elected in November.”

Nancy DiNardo, chairwoman of the Connecticut Democratic Party, said she finds Stefanowski’s alliance with the anti-mask movement intriguing, noting that he spent the early months of the pandemic securing and handing out masks to the public at a time when such equipment was hard to find. “Bob pandered two years ago with his mask give-away tour, and he continues to pander today,” DiNardo said. “Basically, he was for masks before he was against them.”

“Connecticut under Ned Lamont has been a model for COVID response among states.”

White women supporting Republicans: In politics, “suburban mom” are often code words for an affluent, highly educated white woman. This demographic traditionally skews Republican, at least in national elections: White women have

supported Republicans in every presidential race since 1968, except for Clinton’s 1996 reelection victory. They voted for Donald Trump twice, in 2016 and 2020.

But the suburbs in Connecticut and around the nation have grown more diverse in recent years. Jacqueline Crespan, a 46-year-old Black Republican from Manchester, said the issues raised by Stefanowski resonate with voters from all demographic groups.

“I don’t think anyone should be boxed in because of the color of their skin,” said Crespan, the Republican leader on the Manchester Board of Directors who recently appeared in a digital ad for Stefanowski.

Manchester is an economically diverse inner-ring suburb of about 30,000 with a manufacturing history, not a gold coast bedroom town. But she says the concerns driving voters are the same in Manchester as they are in Fairfield County.

“People are worried about affordability, whether they’re at the gas station or the grocery store,” she said. “People don’t feel safe. They worry about taking out the garbage in their own driveways at night.”

Scinto said crime is one of her chief worries, especially after two of the family’s cars were stolen from their driveway.

“In our neighborhood, cars are stolen all the time,” she said.

Stefanowski and other Republicans on the ballot in Connecticut will seek to highlight concerns about rising crime. Asked in January about the themes he plans to emphasize during the campaign, Stefanowski said, “It’s affordability. It’s about utility bills. It’s about the cost of gas. It’s about spiking in crime.”

Kurantowicz said infla-

tion is “probably the biggest issue. ... People are hurting, and they’re looking for help.”

While Stefanowski’s playbook is focused on crime, rising costs and masks, Democrats looking to secure the support of women voters have highlighted threats to abortion access. Roe v. Wade is under assault by conservative lawmakers in statehouses across the nation and could be severely restricted by the U.S. Supreme Court.

“Bob Stefanowski is one of the most anti-woman Republican candidates for governor in a generation,” DiNardo said. “As Brett Kavanaugh and ultra-conservative justices prepare to roll back Roe v. Wade, women remember that Bob welcomed his appointment to the Supreme Court. ... Bob can talk about being pro-women, but his resume and his agenda say otherwise.”

Sarah Matthews, the Fairfield Republican chairwoman, was raised Catholic and is raising her children Catholic. She views abortion as a personal decision that the government should not be involved in.

“We’re Connecticut Republicans. We believe in civil liberties,” said Matthews, a consultant who helps small businesses with e-commerce and marketing.

Her parents were moderate Republican, but she changed her affiliation to Democratic when she moved to San Francisco. Upon returning to Fairfield in 2015, she returned to the Republican Party.

Matthews became more involved with politics during the pandemic, when the stresses of remote, then hybrid, schooling began taking a toll.

“It started with the idea of mask choice and wondering what the science was behind it,” she said. “That woke a lot of people up to what’s happening in Hartford.”

WAR IN UKRAINE

Women opting to ‘go back and help’

Some living abroad heading home to do whatever they can

By Rafal Niedzielski and Jamey Keaten
Associated Press

PRZEMYSL, Poland — While more than 3 million people have fled Ukraine since Russia’s invasion, a small but growing number are heading in the other direction. At first they were foreign volunteers, Ukrainian expatriate men returning to fight and people delivering aid.

Now, increasingly, women are also going back.

Motivated by a desire to help loved ones in trouble, or to contribute to the defense and survival of their country and compatriots in ways large and small, these women are braving the bombs that have increasingly pounded Ukraine since Russian forces invaded Feb. 24.

Many are not refugees but Ukrainian women who had been living and working abroad. Others had already chosen to stay put in their country but were forced to cross the border to shop for needed goods as supplies dried up under the onslaught at home.

“I will go back and help. I am a health worker, so the hospitals need help,” said Iryna Orel, 50, lugging her luggage as she boarded a train from Przemyśl, Poland, to Lviv in western Ukraine. “And I will stay until the end.”

With Ukraine’s government ordering men to stay and fight, the vast majority of people fleeing Ukraine



People line up Monday in Przemyśl, Poland, to board a train headed to Lviv in western Ukraine. DANIEL COLE/AP

have been women, children and the elderly. For those who can’t or won’t leave, the perils they face are many, and images such as those of a mortally wounded pregnant woman rushed on a stretcher from a maternity hospital in Mariupol testify to the dangers.

Still, some women have chosen to head back toward the gunfire and bloodshed to contribute in whatever way they can.

Reached by phone after arriving in the port city of Odesa, which has remained under Ukrainian government control, Orel said she was frightened at first by the air raid sirens and sounds of

explosives, but “sitting and shaking with fear does not help.”

She envisions her role as providing medical care, but other women might choose to help defend the country militarily, she said.

“Women can fight,” she said. “Many women are patriotic to defend Ukraine — why not?”

Women rushing into war zones or taking part in war efforts is nothing new.

Female soldiers were a visible part of the Ukrainian military before the war, including in combat roles. Some women, like many men, are taking up arms for the first time. Plus, gender

equality in the workplace as well as the military has traditionally been more common in post-Soviet states like Ukraine than many other parts of the world.

Since the invasion, Polish border guards have tallied over 195,000 crossings of people from Poland to Ukraine, more than 4 in 5 Ukrainian nationals, spokeswoman Anna Michalska said. That includes people who come and return — to buy food and other supplies in Poland and go back, or who bring relatives across and return. So some people are counted a number of times.

Poland has taken in more

than 1.8 million refugees — over 60% of the total exodus of 3 million people since the invasion, according to U.N. agencies. The U.N. refugee agency had initially predicted some 4 million refugees would flee — a figure that may soon be eclipsed.

“What to say, really? Three million refugees in the space of just over two weeks. This is frightening and it doesn’t stop,” the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, said in an interview in Kabul, the Afghan capital, where he was visiting to assure Afghans that despite the horrors of the war raging

in Ukraine they have not been forgotten.

“Everybody’s asking how many refugees will come out of Ukraine,” he said. “The answer is very simple: I simply don’t know.”

Aid deliveries are making their way into Ukraine, as well as reported flows of weapons and fighters ready to use them.

The International Committee for the Red Cross said 200 tons of medical supplies and relief items had arrived in the country, including water, mattresses, blankets, food, first aid kits, plastic tarps and more than 5,000 body bags.

Less noticed has been the entry or cross-border shuttling of women who are either trying to bring help or stay in the country to continue their lives as best they can.

“I am returning to Ukraine to help people evacuate,” said Maria Khalica, who lives in Italy and was headed to Kyiv. “I am in a more stable state now than my friends, who are under rocket attacks and bombs.

“I know that Kyiv is also going to be occupied and we are taking the last chance to help other people” there, Khalica said, adding that she believes Russian forces will eventually seize the capital.

Some women are returning to join their families and others to help in any way they can, either as health workers or with the army.

“We plan to return to the family and we will decide with the family what to do next” said Olga Simanova, 56, who traveled from Germany to return to her family’s hometown of Vinnytsia.

Leaders of 3 EU nations travel to war-torn Kyiv

Prime ministers brave trip by train amid security risks

By Vanessa Gera and Raf Casert
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — The prime ministers of Poland, Czech Republic and Slovenia traveled to the embattled Ukrainian capital of Kyiv on Tuesday in a show of support for Ukraine even as bombardment by the Russian military edged closer to the center of the city.

Separately, new European Union sanctions against Russia on Tuesday sought to deny oligarchs their love of luxury and block Russia from cashing in on its lucrative steel exports. The United Kingdom also joined in the targeting.

The 27-nation bloc sought to stay away from sanctions that would sap its supply of Russian energy, but pounced with measures worth billions while stifling Russia’s ability to work on global markets by banning EU rating agencies from working with Russian clients.

This time special attention was paid to the elite by targeting luxury goods.

It ranged from truffles, Champagne, cigars and perfumes to fine wines, rare wristwatches, pearls and diamonds.

Meanwhile, the three prime ministers went ahead with the hourslong train trip despite worries within the EU about the security risks of traveling within a war zone.

Poland’s Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said on social media in the evening that he, deputy Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski and the Czech and Slovenian leaders were in Kyiv.

“It is here, in war-torn Kyiv, that history is being made. It is here, that freedom fights against the world of tyranny. It is here that the future of us all hangs in the balance,” Morawiecki said on Twitter.

It was a symbol of support for Ukraine while the long journey over land from Poland to Kyiv sent another signal too: that most of Ukraine still remains in Ukrainian hands.

“The courage of true friends of Ukraine!” commented Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal.

Poland’s leaders, together with Prime Ministers Petr Fiala of the Czech Repub-

lic and Janez Jansa of Slovenia, said they were on an EU mission. But officials from the 27-nation bloc insisted that the trio had undertaken the trip independently.

The three Central European nations are former communist bloc countries that now belong to both the EU and NATO. Underlining the deteriorating security situation in Kyiv, a series of strikes hit a residential neighborhood in the city again Tuesday.

Jansa described the visit as a way to send a message that Ukraine is a European country that deserves to be accepted one day into the EU. Two weeks earlier, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made an emotional appeal to the European Parliament on that subject.

On Tuesday, Britain announced sanctions against 350 individuals and entities and promised to ban the export of luxury goods to Russia.

Furthermore, Britain will impose additional import tariffs of 35% on Russian and Belarusian products ranging from vodka and whitefish to iron, oil, seeds and grain.

Russia also imposed some sanctions of its own, putting President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken,



An emergency services worker comforts a resident after a Russian strike hit an apartment building Tuesday in Kyiv. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine started Feb. 24. CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and other top Biden administration officials on its own list.

“None of us are planning tourist trips to Russia and none of us have bank accounts that we won’t be able to access. So we will forge ahead,” said White House press secretary Jen Psaki.

The EU has already hit about 600 Russians during four rounds of sanctions, including 15 individuals and nine entities in the fourth package.

It affected one oligarch

already targeted by Britain, Chelsea soccer club owner Roman Abramovich, who was slapped with an asset freeze and a travel ban.

In New York, Russia circulated a proposed U.N. Security Council resolution demanding protection for civilians “in vulnerable situations” in Ukraine and safe passage for humanitarian aid and people seeking to leave the country, but it made no mention of Russia’s responsibility for the war against its smaller neighbor.

The draft resolution endorses U.N. Secre-

tary-General Antonio Guterres’ call for dialogue and negotiations and calls for a negotiated cease-fire to rapidly evacuate “all civilians,” and underscores “the need for the parties concerned to agree on humanitarian pauses to this end.”

But it never identifies “the parties concerned.”

Russia’s U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said the resolution was being put in a final form, and a Russian diplomat said a vote could take place as early as Wednesday.



Pierre Zakrzewski, left, a veteran cameraman for Fox News, was killed Monday during an attack in Ukraine. FOX NEWS

Fox News cameraman, 2nd journalist killed

By Michael M. Grynbbaum
The New York Times

A Fox News cameraman and a Ukrainian journalist traveling with him were killed Monday in Ukraine when their vehicle came under fire outside Kyiv, according to the network and Ukrainian authorities.

The cameraman, Pierre Zakrzewski, 55, and the Ukrainian journalist, Oleksandra Kuvshynova, were traveling in the same vehicle

as Fox News correspondent Benjamin Hall, who was also injured in the attack in the town of Horenka.

Hall remains hospitalized in Ukraine; Fox News has not shared additional details about his condition.

Zakrzewski was a veteran journalist at Fox News, who had reported from many war zones. He had been reporting from Ukraine since February.

Kuvshynova was a local journalist working with the Fox News reporting team.

Her death was confirmed by the Ukrainian interior ministry.

Suzanne Scott, CEO of Fox News Media, wrote in a memo to the network’s staff that it was “a heartbreaking day.”

“Pierre was a war zone photographer who covered nearly every international story for Fox News from Iraq to Afghanistan to Syria during his long tenure with us,” Scott wrote.

“His talents were vast and there wasn’t a role that he

didn’t jump in to help with in the field — from photographer to engineer to editor to producer — and he did it all under immense pressure with tremendous skill. He was profoundly committed to telling the story and his bravery, professionalism and work ethic were renowned among journalists at every media outlet.”

On Sunday, American filmmaker and journalist Brent Renaud, 50, was shot and killed while reporting in a suburb of Kyiv.

NEWS BRIEFING

Embattled Raskin pulls nomination from Federal Reserve post

From news services

Sarah Bloom Raskin withdrew her nomination Tuesday to a position on the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors after a key Democrat had joined with all Senate Republicans to oppose her confirmation.

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin said Monday that he opposed Raskin's confirmation, and all Republicans in the 50-50 Senate had indicated that they planned to block her nomination for the position of the Fed's top banking regulator.

Republicans have argued that Raskin would use the Fed's regulatory authority to discourage banks from lending to oil and gas companies.

Democrats, as well as many banking executives, countered that Raskin's views aren't out of the mainstream and said she simply wants the Fed to consider the risks that climate change poses to banks, insurance companies and other financial firms.

President Joe Biden, who nominated Raskin in January, said she had “unparalleled experience” in areas like cybersecurity, climate change and consumer protection.

The president asserted in a statement that "Sarah was subject to baseless attacks from industry and conservative interest groups."

White House press secretary Jen Psaki had reiterated Tuesday that Raskin had Biden's "strong support."

Raskin's nomination had been stuck in the Senate Banking Committee after Republicans last month unanimously refused to vote on it in an effort to prevent her being approved on a party-line vote.

Daylight Saving Time: The Senate on Tuesday voted unanimously to make

Daylight Saving Time permanent for all 12 months of the year, a move that would end the premature afternoon winter darkness that many Americans dread.

In a rare moment of bipartisan unity, lawmakers gave unanimous consent to the measure, which would eliminate the bothersome twice-a-year ritual of turning the clocks back by an hour every fall and forward by an hour every spring.

"No more dark afternoons in the winter. No more losing an hour of sleep every spring," Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., said after the bill passed. "We want more sunshine during our most productive waking hours."

The bill now goes on to the House, where lawmakers on both sides of the aisle urged House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to ensure it gets a fast track.

Puerto Rico bankruptcy: Puerto Rico's government formally exited bankruptcy Tuesday, completing the largest public debt restructuring in U.S. history after announcing nearly seven years ago that it was unable to pay its more than \$70 billion debt.

The exit means that the U.S. Caribbean territory's government will resume billion-dollar payments to bondholders for the first time in several years, settle some \$1 billion worth of claims filed by residents and local businesses, and issue more than \$10 billion worth of bonds.

The government also will restore up to \$1.3 billion taken from a public pension system.

"This is a significant success," said Natalie Jaresko, executive director of the federal control board that oversees Puerto Rico's finances and its debt restructuring process. "Remain-



Temel Atacocugu, an Al Noor mosque shooting survivor, completes a 224-mile walk and bike ride from Dunedin to Christchurch on Tuesday, three years after a gunman killed 51 Muslim worshippers in Christchurch, New Zealand. The injuries from being shot nine times did not stop Atacocugu from finishing a two-week trip for peace. **GEORGE HEARD/NEW ZEALAND HERALD**

ing in bankruptcy has been a drag on the economy in multiple ways.”

Germany targets far right: Germany's top security officials announced a 10-point plan Tuesday to combat far-right extremism in the country that includes disarming about 1,500 suspected extremists and tightening background checks for those wanting to acquire guns.

Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said the far right poses the biggest extremist threat to democracy in Germany and said authorities would seek to tackle the issue through prevention and tough measures.

“We want to destroy far-right extremist networks,” Faeser said in Berlin, saying it included targeting financial flows that benefit such groups, including merchandising businesses, music festivals and martial arts events.

Authorities will work to remove gun licenses from suspected extrem-

ists, crack down on incitement spread online through social networks and combat conspiracy theories online.

Homeless shooting suspect: A man suspected of stalking and shooting homeless people asleep on the streets of New York City and Washington, D.C., was arrested early Tuesday. Police said at least two people were killed and three others wounded in the attacks.

The suspect, Gerald Brevard, was arrested in Washington on murder, assault and other charges after news of the killings had added new fears to people spending nights on the streets of the two cities and elsewhere.

Brevard, who lives in the Washington area, was charged Tuesday only in connection with the Washington cases and has not been charged in the New York attacks. Brevard, 30, has a criminal history that includes assaulting a police officer and

assault with a deadly weapon and was in custody Tuesday. He was being questioned by both New York and Washington detectives.

Museum suspect: A man suspected of stabbing two workers at New York's Museum of Modern Art and making threats regarding former President Donald Trump was arrested at a Philadelphia bus terminal early Tuesday after setting his hotel room on fire, police said.

Gary Cabana, 60, had been sought by police since Saturday. Police found him sleeping on a bench, and he was arrested without incident. New York City police said they would seek to have him extradited but did not provide a specific time frame.

Speaking Tuesday at a news conference, New York City Police Department Chief of Detectives James Essig said that in addition to assault charges related to the museum stabbings, Cabana

is charged with a prior unrelated assault and aggravated harassment for sending threats by email.

White House tours: Public tours of the White House will resume next month after a more than 14-month hiatus due to the coronavirus, the Biden administration announced Tuesday.

Tours of the executive mansion were suspended indefinitely by President Joe Biden when he took office as he tightened virus protocols in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The free tours must be requested through a congressional office and will resume Friday and Saturday mornings beginning April 15.

Face masks are optional. Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in 10 days prior or has been in contact with someone confirmed or suspected to have the virus, "should stay home," the administration said.

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WORLD & NATION

Dems crave new midterm message

White House signals Biden to emphasize pragmatism in goals

By Jonathan Martin
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — After offering her customary lavish praise of President Joe Biden, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi got to the business at hand at a White House meeting last month on the midterm elections.

Democrats, Pelosi told Biden and a group of his aides, need a more consistent message. The speaker, who has long been fond of pithy, made-for-bumper-sticker mantras, offered a suggestion she had heard from members: Democrats deliver.

What Pelosi did not fully detail was that some of her party’s most politically imperiled lawmakers were revolting against Biden’s preferred slogan, “Build back better,” believing it had come to be a toxic phrase that only reminded voters of the party’s failure to pass its sweeping social policy bill. And what the president and his advisers did not tell the speaker was that they had already surveyed “Democrats deliver” with voters — and the response to it was at the bottom of those for the potential slogans they tested, according to people familiar with the research.

No new campaign message was agreed to that day — or since. Biden is now absorbed by the war in Europe. Facing the biggest foreign policy crisis of his presidency, he is hardly consumed with the looming midterm elections, let alone trying to devise a catchy slogan.

Still, his advisers acknowledge that the crisis in Ukraine presents a chance for a reset, perhaps the president’s best opportunity to restore his standing before November.

Democrats are pleading with him to come up with a sharper message. With inflation hitting another



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, left, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi escort President Biden to Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol. Democrats are pleading with Biden to sharpen his message before midterm elections. AL DRAGO/THE NEW YORK TIMES

40-year high and gas prices spiking because of a boycott on Russian oil, they remain angst-ridden about their prospects in the fall, in large part because the president’s approval ratings remain in the 40s, and lower in some pivotal states, even after a recent bump.

Democrats who once thought the key to their political success would be beating back the pandemic and restoring the economy are deflated to find that falling coronavirus positivity rates and rising employment numbers — and even foreign policy leadership — have barely moved public opinion.

“The economy is strong, and America is once again leading in freedom’s fight against tyranny,” said Rep. Dean Phillips, D-Minn. “But we all know that politics isn’t predicated on what’s real, rather on how people feel.”

The president’s advisers point to the State of the

Union address — which emphasized pragmatism over bold progressive goals — as a blueprint for his message in coming months and note that, according to their research, cutting drug costs was among the most popular proposals in the speech.

They also are considering a handful of executive orders that would please their base, on matters including the cancellation of some student loan debt, and are determined to enact legislation lowering the costs of prescription drugs, according to Democrats familiar with his plans.

Some Democrats say they have been cheered by signs that the White House and particularly chief of staff Ron Klain are now focused on inflation after initially arguing last year that the increase was transitory. During a recent meeting with a group of House Democrats, Klain resisted a request to spend

more federal dollars aiding restaurants, in part because it could be seen as adding to inflationary pressures, according to an official at the meeting.

Gov. Jared Polis of Colorado, a Democrat who is on the ballot this fall, said he had privately urged Biden to put reducing consumer costs at the center of his agenda.

“The president and the administration need to be attentive to the difficulties that real people are facing in the real world,” Polis said, recounting his message to the president on a phone call with other governors last month. “He’s a good listener. It’s just a matter of how it gets translated into policies, and we haven’t seen that yet from the White House.”

Nowhere is there more alarm in the party ranks than among House Democrats, many of whom have long felt that Biden and his

aides, with their decades of service in the Senate, were overly focused on the other chamber.

Most outspoken are incumbents facing difficult elections.

One of them, Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., had been privately pushing party leaders to salvage some elements of the sweeping social welfare legislation that Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., appeared to have torpedoed at the end of last year.

Slotkin’s idea: Hold a summit-style gathering with House and Senate leaders and find consensus.

That did not happen.

Pelosi did hold a meeting in her office last month with Slotkin and other Democrats from competitive districts. The gathering devolved into a session of griping about the White House and pleas with the speaker to tell Biden to stop using the phrase “Build back better.”

Slotkin was blunt about her exasperation.

“It would be helpful if the White House, the Senate and the House were all on the same page on those priorities,” she said.

Some of her colleagues are voting with their feet: 31 House Democrats have said they will not run for reelection, the highest number in the caucus since 1992.

Not all of the ire is aimed at Biden.

Lawmakers view Pelosi as a political force but a de facto lame duck who is all but certain to join the exodus if Republicans reclaim the majority. They complain that they have received little guidance from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, which has sought to mollify members by talking up better-than-expected results from the redistricting process.

The new maps, though, are little comfort to lawmakers like Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev.

Titus sought an ambassadorship but did not get one because Democrats could not risk losing her seat. Her district became more competitive through redistricting. She is facing a primary from the left despite her largely progressive record. And she is running in tourism-dependent Nevada, which still has some of the highest unemployment levels in the country.

Biden has set foot in the state only once as president, when he flew in for former Sen. Harry Reid’s funeral.

“They haven’t had time to come up with a plan because every day is some new crisis,” Titus said of the White House.

Maybe, she wondered, there is no return to normal in polarized times.

“You get expectations up that you can bring people together, you can negotiate, you got international experience, and then it’s a new world,” she said.



The number of new COVID-19 cases reported Tuesday on China’s mainland was more than 3,500. Above, people line up at a mobile coronavirus testing site in Beijing. NG HAN GUAN/AP

As Chinese virus cases climb, trade disruption threat looms

By Joe McDonald
Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese authorities Tuesday tightened antiviral controls at ports, raising the risk of trade disruptions after some auto and electronics factories shut down as the government fights coronavirus outbreaks.

Stock prices in China and Hong Kong sank for a second day following the shutdown Monday of Shenzhen, a tech and finance hub adjacent to Hong Kong in the south, and Changchun, an auto center in the northeast. Bus service to Shanghai, China’s business capital and biggest city, was suspended.

China’s case numbers are low compared with other major countries or Hong Kong. But authorities are enforcing a “zero tolerance” strategy that aims to keep the virus out of the country. It has temporarily shut down major cities to find every infected person.

The restrictions have wider potential ramifications, coming at a time when the global economy is under pressure from Russia’s war on Ukraine,

surging oil prices and weak consumer demand.

“We can think of no risk to the global economy, excluding nuclear warfare, that is greater than the risk of a COVID outbreak in China that shuts industrial production,” Carl Weinberg of High-Frequency Economics said in a report. “Uncountable manufacturing supply chains pass through China.”

Economists say for now, smartphone makers and other industries can use factories and suppliers in other parts of China. But a bigger threat looms if business is disrupted at ports in Shenzhen, Shanghai or Ningbo.

They link Chinese factories at the center of global manufacturing networks with foreign suppliers and markets. A one-month slowdown at Shenzhen’s Yantian Port last year caused a backlog of thousands of shipping containers and sent shockwaves through global supply chains.

“The risk here is whether COVID will be found at Yantian Port,” said Iris Pang, chief China economist for ING. “If the port has to be

suspended, it will affect a lot of electronic imports and exports.”

There was no sign of major disruption, but port operators announced curbs on face-to-face contact.

The agency that manages the Shanghai port closed windows where customers submit documents and said that function would go online. It gave no indication cargo-handling or other operations were affected.

The port of Lianyungang, north of Shanghai, announced foreign sailors were barred from leaving ships or using the city to change crews.

Shenzhen suspended cross-border freight service at the Liantang crossing into Hong Kong. It said the Man Kam To crossing would be limited to handling fresh and live food to make sure Hong Kong gets adequate supplies.

The number of new cases reported Tuesday on the Chinese mainland more than doubled to 3,507. Almost three-quarters were in Jilin province, where Changchun is located, with 2,601 cases. Hong Kong, which reports separately, had 26,908 cases Monday.

Prosecutors, Sept. 11 plotters discuss plea deal, sources say

By Carol Rosenberg and Charlie Savage
The New York Times

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba — Prosecutors have opened talks with lawyers for Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the accused mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, and his four codefendants to negotiate a potential plea agreement that would drop the possibility of execution, according to people with knowledge of the discussions.



The Detention Center Zone at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba. DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2019

Guilty pleas in exchange for life sentences could bring to an end the long-running case at the war court, which was set up by the George W. Bush administration and has been mired in pretrial proceedings focusing on the CIA’s torture of the defendants. Nearly a decade after the men were arraigned, the military judge has set no trial start date.

No deal is expected soon. But guilty pleas resulting in life sentences could force the Biden administration to modify its ambition of ending detention operations at Guantanamo Bay and instead rebrand it as a military prison for a few men.

In an earlier, failed attempt at such talks during the Trump administration, the accused plotters demanded that they serve their sentences at Guantanamo, where they are able to pray and eat in groups. They specifically did not want to be sent to the supermax prison in Florence, Colorado, where federal inmates are held in solitary confinement up to 23 hours a day.

The five men are accused of directing and training or providing travel arrangements and money to the 19 hijackers who crashed four commercial aircraft into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania, killing a total of nearly 3,000 people.

A plea deal would undoubtedly disappoint, if not enrage, death penalty advocates among the victims’ family members.

But other family members, including those troubled by the role of U.S. torture in the case and the delays, might see it as a fitting conclusion.

The path to a trial for the accused plotters of the worst terrorist attack in the United States has been impeded by legal and logistic challenges as well as a nearly two-year closure of the court during the coronavirus pandemic.

The discussions began last week amid the latest setback. The judge, defense and prosecution teams had traveled to Guantanamo Bay for three weeks of hearings meant to address disputes over evidence, particularly showing the role of the FBI in the CIA prison network where Mohammed and his codefendants were tortured after following their capture in Pakistan in 2002 and 2003.

But before they could start, Cheryl Bormann, the lead lawyer for one of the defendants, Walid bin Attash, asked to step down from the case. She cited an unspecified in-house investigation of her “performance and conduct” by the chief defense counsel, Brig. Gen. Jackie Thompson of

the Army.

No details were given. But the issue forced a delay in hearings that could stretch for months and provided an opening, according to a participant in the talks between the prosecution and the defense.

A lead case prosecutor, Clayton Trivett, wrote Wednesday to the defense teams proposing that they discuss “whether pretrial agreements are possible for all five cases.”

Within days, the five defendants and their lawyers met in the courtroom to compile an initial list of requirements for the guilty plea, starting with removing the death penalty from the case. Lawyers for the five men submitted a joint list Monday, participants said.

Although the prosecutors have begun the negotiations, a senior Pentagon official known as the convening authority must approve any deal. That role is currently held by Col. Jeffrey Wood of the Arkansas National Guard, who is also a lawyer in Little Rock, Arkansas, and was appointed to the civilian job by the Trump administration.

Participants said the talks were expected to continue through the month to try to reach some understandings to present to Wood.

WORLD & NATION



Giulio Cavicchioli, owner of Minus Energie, at his warehouse in Bagnolo San Vito, Italy. His company has gone from working on 50 bunkers in the past 22 years to fielding 500 inquiries in just a few weeks. **NADIA SHIRA COHEN/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Pandemic fears give way to bomb shelters

Weeks of war revive concern in Europe of nuclear calamity

By Jason Horowitz
The New York Times

BAGNOLO SAN VITO, Italy — Across a footbridge from a busy shopping outlet surrounded by verdant fields in northern Italy, workers in a nondescript warehouse are preparing for a nuclear attack, its radioactive fallout and the end of the world as we know it.

“We have found ourselves in the midst of this giant cyclone of demand,” said Giulio Cavicchioli, as he showed off an underground air filtration system that “cleans” radioactive particles, nerve gas and other biological agents and played a video tour of a nuclear shelter that was “ready to use.”

His company, Minus Energie, has gone from working on 50 bunkers in the past 22 years to fielding 500 inquiries in just a few weeks.

“It’s a hysteria for construction of bunkers,” he said, driven by the fear of Russian nuclear warheads reaching across Europe. “It’s much scarier now.”

In the days since President Vladimir Putin of Russia launched his war on Ukraine, and put his nuclear forces into “special combat readiness,” the intensifying violence and the legacy of two world wars has revived fears in Europe of nuclear calamity for the first time in decades.

Europe has already spent two years on high alert against the pandemic.

But now the manifestations of its anxieties and desires for self-defense have shifted from the masks, vaccines and lockdowns of COVID-19 to the bunkers, iodine pills and air raid sirens of nuclear war.

From Italy to Sweden, Belgium to Britain, the specter of nuclear war, which had seemed a relic of the past, is permeating a new generation of European consciousness. And it is prompting a new look at defense infrastructure, survival guides and fallout shelters that not long ago were the purview of camouflage-wearing, assault-weapon-toting survivalists or paranoid billionaires.

“We are extremely concerned by the nuclear safety, security and safeguards risks caused by the Russian invasion on Ukraine,” the European Union said in statement Wednesday.

“Since the fall of the Soviet Union, we’ve all forgotten about it and put it to bed, until, you know, the madman invaded,” said Hamish de Bretton-Gordon, the former commander of the United Kingdom’s and NATO’s Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Defense Forces, and now a visiting fellow at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

He said that bunkers across Europe “have fallen into disrepair” and were decayed.

“We are completely unprepared,” de Bretton-Gordon said. “But each day that it goes forward, it’s becoming more of a reality that actually this is something maybe we need to think about in some detail.”

Countries that sit closer to Russia are already thinking about it.

Finland, on Russia’s western border, has maintained high military readiness for years, regularly testing alarms, and has a “long tradition of preparedness,” according to Petri Toivonen, the secretary-general for Finland’s Secretariat of the Security Committee. He wrote in an email that “we have been continuously constructing shelters.”

He added that “at the moment our capacity is for approximately 4,000,000 people in approximately 50,000 shelters.”

In Sweden, Russia’s annexation of Crimea jump-started a “total defense” strategy that had eased after the fall of the Soviet Union. Now, Sweden’s Civil Contingencies Agency is testing its air-raid warning system and circulating a Cold War-era-style precautionary pamphlet. The 20-page guide includes a checklist for basic supplies to get from the supermarket to survive on the run or in a shelter.

Even further afield, demand for bunkers and fallout shelters is increasing, penetrating a market broader than just the wealthy.

“Picture it like a chalet, but underground,” said Mathieu Séranne, the founder of Artemis Protection, a French maker of prefabricated luxury bunkers with air-filtration systems, which cost at least a half-million euros, or about \$546,000, per shelter.

Previously, only “really wealthy people” were interested in them, he said.

“But then, two weeks ago, we started receiving tons and tons of demand from normal people,” Séranne said. “We had to change our whole commercial strategy.”

He said that he had

received about 300 inquiries, and that he was selling stripped-down shelters that are much cheaper — about \$152,000 — and smaller “to adapt to this new demand.” Ten bare-bones bunkers were already in production, he said.

Outside the bunkers, others are seeking protection from iodine pills, which, when taken correctly, can help absorb radiation in the thyroid and help prevent cancer from exposure to it.

Belgium is meeting an increase in demand with packs of pills free for anyone with a Belgian identity card.

Michael Storme, an official with the country’s Pharmacists’ Union, told the Belgian news agency Belga that on March 7 alone, the country’s pharmacies distributed more than 30,000 boxes. Demand has also gone up in Finland and the Netherlands.

De Bretton-Gordon said iodine pills could do only so much and the best prevention was averting the conflict — and readiness.

“Briefings to civilians on what to do and how to survive,” like many countries had during the Cold War, de Bretton-Gordon said, could teach people to shield themselves behind stone walls that blocked radiation or to avoid drinking contaminated water.

But he also said that Europe should be “hugely concerned” about Russian accusations pertaining to chemical and biological weapons in Ukraine, which both he and the White House called a possible false-flag operation to lay the groundwork for the potential use of such weapons.

Putin, he said, appeared to have already used a deadly military-grade nerve agent for a poisoning in Salisbury, England, where de Bretton-Gordon lived.

“I think we need to sit up and listen,” he added. Cavicchioli agreed.

But as he walked around his office with a beeping Geiger counter, he said he would prefer the new demand to taper off if it meant the end of a war that he called “a tragedy without end.”

As he returned to his office — where he said that day he had received 20 emails and phone calls from potential clients “who can’t sleep at night” — he said that there was a misplaced view of bunker owners as doomsday enthusiasts.

“Someone who has a bunker is an optimist,” he said. “They believe there will be something afterward — that life will go on.”

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

5th Generation Nitric Oxide Breakthrough Proven in Clinical Trials to Restore Maximum Blood Flow in 5 Minutes

A newly improved version of America’s best-selling male supplement gives 60-year-old men the results they enjoyed in their 30’s.

America’s best-selling male performance enhancer just got a lot better.

It’s the latest breakthrough for nitric oxide – the molecule that makes pleasure possible by increasing blood flow right throughout your body.

Nitric oxide won the Nobel Prize in 1998. It’s why “the little blue pill” works. Thousands of studies confirm NO is the key to performance.

And this new discovery increases nitric oxide availability resulting in even quicker, stronger and longer-lasting pleasure.

One double-blind, placebo-controlled study (the “gold-standard” of research) involved a group of 60-year-old-men.

They didn’t exercise. They didn’t eat healthy. And researchers reported their “nitric oxide availability was almost totally compromised,” resulting in HALF the blood flow of a man in his peak.

But only five minutes after the first dose their blood flow increased dramatically, almost back to levels of a perfectly healthy 31-year-old man! “It’s amazing,” remarks nitric oxide expert Dr. Al Sears. “That’s like giving 60-year-old men the power of 30-year-olds.”

WHY SO MUCH EXCITEMENT?

Despite the billions men spend annually on older nitric oxide therapies, there’s one well-known problem with them.

They don’t always work.

A world renown physician explains why. He’s studied nitric oxide for over 43 years. He is the physician-in-chief at a notable hospital in Boston. He says a “deficiency of bioactive nitric oxide... leads to impaired endothelium-dependent vasorelaxation.”

In plain English, these older products may increase levels of nitric oxide. But that’s only half the battle. If it’s not bioactively available then your body can’t absorb it and won’t perform.

Experts simply call it the nitric oxide “glitch.” And until now, there’s never been a solution.

5th GENERATION NITRIC OXIDE FORMULA FLYING OFF SHELVES

Upon further research, America’s No. 1 men’s health expert Dr. Al Sears discovered certain nutrients fix this “glitch” resulting in significantly better improvement in blood flow.

He’s combined those nutrients with proven nitric oxide boosters in a new formula called Primal Max Red. In clinical trials, 5,000 mg is required for satisfying performance. Primal Max Red contains a bigger, 9,000 mg per serving dose. It’s become so popular, he’s having trouble keeping it in stock.

Dr. Sears is the author of more than 500 scientific papers. Thousands of people listened to him speak at the recent Palm Beach Health & Wellness Festival featuring Dr. Oz. NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Namath visited his clinic, the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine.

Primal Max Red has only been available for a few months — but everyone who takes it reports a big difference. “I have the energy to perform three times in one day, WOW! That has not happened in years. Oh, by the way I am 62,” says Jonathan K. from Birmingham, AL.

HOW IT WORKS

Loss of staying power starts with your blood vessels. Specifically, the inside layer called the endothelium where nitric oxide is made.

The problem is various factors thicken your blood vessels as you age. This blocks availability causing



A new discovery that increases nitric oxide availability was recently proven in a clinical trial to boost blood flow 275% resulting in even quicker, stronger and longer-lasting performance.

the nitric oxide “glitch.” The result is difficulty in getting and sustaining healthy blood flow.

How bad is the problem?

Research shows the typical 40-year-old man absorbs 50% less nitric oxide. At 50, that drops to 25%. And once you pass 60 just a measly 15% gets through.

To make matters worse, nitric oxide levels start declining in your 30s. And by 70, nitric oxide production is down an alarming 75%.

Primal Max Red is the first formula to tackle both problems. Combining powerful nitric oxide boosters and a proven delivery mechanism that defeats the nitric oxide “glitch” resulting in significantly better blood flow. There’s not enough space here to fully explain how it works, so Dr. Sears will send anyone who orders Primal Max Red a free special report that explains everything.

MORE CLINICAL RESULTS

Nutrients in Primal Max Red have logged impressive results.

In a Journal of Applied Physiology study, one resulted in 6 times MORE nitric oxide. And these increased levels lasted up to 12 hours.

“I measured my nitric oxide levels, you can buy a test kit from Amazon,” reports 48-year-old Jeff O. “Monday night I showed depleted.”

Then he used ingredients in Primal Max Red and, “The results were off the charts. I first woke around 3 a.m. on Tuesday ready to go. My nitric oxide levels measured at the top end of the range.”

FREE BONUS TESTOSTERONE BOOSTER

Every order also gets Dr. Sears testosterone boosting formula Primal Max Black for free.

“If you want passionate pleasure you had in your younger days, you need nitric oxide to get you going. And testosterone for energy and drive,” says Dr. Sears. “You get both with Primal Max Red and Primal Max Black.”

HOW TO GET PRIMAL MAX

To secure free bottles of Primal Max Black and get the hot, new Primal Max Red formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-410-1829** within the next 48 hours. “It’s not available in drug stores yet,” says Dr. Sears. “The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer.”

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about Primal Max, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. “Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I’ll send you all your money back,” he says.

The Hotline will be open for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number will be shut down to allow them to restock. Call **1-800-410-1829** to secure your limited supply of Primal Max Red and free bottles of Primal Max Black. You don’t need a prescription, and those who call in the first 24 hours qualify for a significant discount. Use Promo Code **NP0322PMAX68** when you call in. Lines are frequently busy, but all calls will be answered.

BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

Biden targets gender pay gap for federal workers

Executive order calls for an end to seeking information on past salary history

By Fatima Hussein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House marked Equal Pay Day by taking new steps aimed at ending the gender pay gap for federal workers and contractors.

President Joe Biden on Tuesday signed an executive order that encourages the government to consider banning federal contractors from seeking information about job applicants’ prior salary history. And a new directive from the Labor Department aims to strengthen federal contractors’ obligations to audit payrolls to help guard against pay disparities based on gender, race or ethnicity.

The Office of Personnel Management also is considering a regulation to address the use of prior salary history in hiring and setting compensation for federal workers.

Equal Pay Day is designed to call attention to how much longer women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year.

Data shows that while the pay gap is at its

smallest ever, the coronavirus pandemic has altered women’s labor force participation so that “what we’re seeing is an artificial narrowing,” said Jasmine Tucker, director of research at the National Women’s Law Center.

For instance, women who remained in the labor force during the pandemic and worked full time often had higher earnings than their counterparts who lost low-paying jobs, indicating that 2020 figures cannot be compared with wage gap data from prior years, Tucker said.

Among other issues, the Biden administration wants to combat occupational segregation to get women better access to well-paying jobs, which tend to be male-dominated, according to a senior administration official who previewed the administration’s efforts Monday, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Last October, the administration issued a national gender strategy to advance women’s and girls’ full participation in society.

This year, the administration is looking

for new ways to combat pay disparities and drawing attention to high-profile efforts to combat the wage gap, such as the U.S. women’s national soccer team’s \$24 million February settlement with U.S. Soccer in a discrimination dispute.

The settlement includes a commitment to equalize pay and bonuses to match the men’s team.

Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and other administration officials also attended a Tuesday afternoon event with members of the women’s soccer team to mark Equal Pay Day.

Tucker said there is a long way to go to achieve equal pay — especially after the pandemic.

There were in excess of 1.1 million fewer women in the labor force in February 2022 than in February 2020, which means they are neither working nor searching for employment.

“There was a particular shedding among low-paid workers, and what was left was middle- and higher-paid workers who were insulated from the pandemic,” Tucker said.

Putin’s law keeps leased foreign jets in Russia

By David Koenig
Associated Press

The fate of hundreds of planes leased by Russian airlines from foreign companies grew murkier this week after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law letting the airlines register those planes and continue flying them.

Russian state media said the law will let Russian airlines keep their fleets and operate foreign planes on routes within Russia.

Many of the planes used by Russian airlines are leased from foreign companies, including several in Ireland, a member of the European Union. Last month, the EU banned the sale or leasing of planes to Russia as part of sanctions on Russia for invading Ukraine. It gave leasing companies until March 28 to end current contracts in Russia.

Last week, Russia’s air-transport agency advised airlines with foreign-registered planes not to take them out of the country because of the risk they could be repossessed.

Separately, sanctions prevent Western companies from providing parts and maintenance to Russian airlines, and analysts say it is unclear whether the planes are insured anymore.

Various estimates place the number of foreign-owned planes operated by Russian airlines at around 500 or more, and the vast majority of them were inside Russia when the war started Feb. 24.

Aviation consulting firm Ishka estimates that the foreign-owned planes are worth \$12 billion.

“We are in uncharted territory. We don’t know if they will see these aircraft again,” said Helane Becker, an aviation analyst for financial-services firm Cowen. “Our guess is that (Russian carriers) use up whatever parts they have and then start cannibalizing (parts) to keep aircraft flying.”



Thousands of Muscovites line up Jan. 31, 1990 — opening day — outside the first McDonald’s restaurant in the then-Soviet Union. AP

‘Sign of optimism’ fading

McDonald’s opened its doors 32 years ago in Russia. Now, it’s closed. A casualty of war.

By Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press

Two months after the Berlin Wall fell, another powerful symbol opened its doors in Moscow: a new McDonald’s.

It was the first U.S. fast-food restaurant to enter the Soviet Union, reflecting the new political openness of the era.

For Vlad Vexler, who as a 9-year-old waited in a two-hour line to enter the restaurant near Moscow’s Pushkin Square on its opening day in January 1990, it was a gateway to the utopia he imagined the West to be.

“We thought that life there was magical and there were no problems,” Vexler said.

So it was all the more poignant for Vexler when McDonald’s announced it would temporarily close that store and nearly 850 others in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

“That McDonald’s is a sign of optimism that in the end didn’t materialize,” said Vexler, a political philosopher and author who now lives in London. “Now that Russia is entering the period of contraction, isolation and impoverishment, you look back at

these openings and think about what might have been.”

The company said this week that it expects the closure to cost around \$50 million per month.

Just as McDonald’s paved the way for other brands to enter the Soviet market, its exit led to a cascade of similar announcements from other U.S. brands. Starbucks closed its 130 outlets in Russia. Yum Brands closed its 70 company-owned KFC restaurants and was negotiating the closure of 50 Pizza Huts that are owned by franchisees.

McDonald’s entry into the Soviet Union began with a chance meeting.

In 1976, McDonald’s loaned some buses to organizers of the 1980 Moscow Olympics who were touring Olympic venues in Montreal.

George Cohon, then the head of McDonald’s in Canada, took the visitors to McDonald’s as part of the tour. That same night, the group began discussing ways to open a McDonald’s in the Soviet Union.

Fourteen years later, after Soviet laws loosened and McDonald’s built relationships with local farmers, the first McDonald’s opened in Moscow. It was a sensation.

On its opening day, the restaurant’s 27 cash registers rang up 30,000 meals.

Vexler and his grandmother waited in a line with thousands of others to enter the 700-seat store, entertained by traditional

Russian musicians and costumed characters like Mickey Mouse.

“The feeling was, ‘Let’s go and see how Westerners do things better. Let’s go and see what a healthy society has to offer,’” Vexler said.

Vexler saved money for weeks to buy his first McDonald’s meal: a cheeseburger, fries and a Coca-Cola.

The food had a “plasticky goodness” he had never experienced before, he said.

McDonald’s entry into the Soviet Union was so groundbreaking it gave rise to a political theory. The Golden Arches Theory holds that two countries that both have McDonald’s in them won’t go to war, because the presence of a McDonald’s is an indicator of the countries’ level of inter-dependence and their alignment with U.S. laws, said Bernd Kaussler, a political science professor at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

That theory held until 2014, when Russia annexed Crimea, Kaussler said.

Kaussler said the number of companies withdrawing from Russia is unprecedented. He thinks some — including McDonald’s — might calculate that it’s unwise to reopen.

“As the Russian economy is becoming less inter-dependent with the U.S. and Europe, we basically have fewer domestic economic factors that could mitigate current aggressive policies,” Kaussler said.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Intel announces \$88B expansion

LONDON — U.S. chipmaker Intel unveiled plans Tuesday to invest up to \$88 billion across Europe as part of an ambitious expansion aimed at evening out imbalances in the global semiconductor industry that have led to big chip shortages.

CEO Pat Gelsinger said Intel was investing the money over the next decade “along the entire semiconductor value chain.”

The company plans to spend tens of billions of dollars setting up or expanding chip production sites and establishing research and development or design centers in France, Germany, Ireland and Italy.

“Why are we doing this? Because the world has an insatiable demand for semiconductors, or chips,” Gelsinger said in a webcast.

Myanmar: Thai currency use OK

BANGKOK — Myanmar’s military-led administration has agreed to accept Thai baht as an official currency in border trade dealings and plans a similar arrangement for use of India’s rupee, seeking to limit the country’s reliance on the U.S. dollar in trade.

The State Administration Council said Tuesday that Myanmar began allowing direct currency settlements using the Chinese yuan with its kyat earlier this year.

Myanmar’s economic crisis deepened after its army seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, fueling armed opposition.

The turmoil, sanctions against the military leadership and the pandemic have combined to severe strain the country’s ability to earn foreign exchange.

Analysis: Airline ticket sales fly by milestone

By Niraj Chokshi
The New York Times

Rising fuel prices may present an obstacle, but the airline recovery in the United States appears to be on track for now.

With the omicron coronavirus variant receding and pandemic restrictions being eased, the airline industry turned a corner last month, according to an analysis by the Adobe Digital Economy Index, which draws on online sales from six of the top 10 U.S. airlines.

According to the analysis, ticket sales for domestic flights in February exceeded those for the same month in 2019, a first since the pandemic began two years ago.

“We’re seeing things open up in terms of

people’s thinking about travel,” said Vivek Pandya, who led the analysis. “The question now becomes: How much can that momentum continue to push forward?”

Travelers spent an estimated \$6.6 billion on domestic flights in February, about 6% more than three years earlier, according to the analysis. The number of tickets sold was up 4%, while fares were up about 5%, lagging overall inflation.

The data bodes well for airlines, which have been preparing for months for what the industry expects to be a robust summer travel season.

It also matches the optimism that several carriers expressed at an investor conference held by JP Morgan on Tuesday.

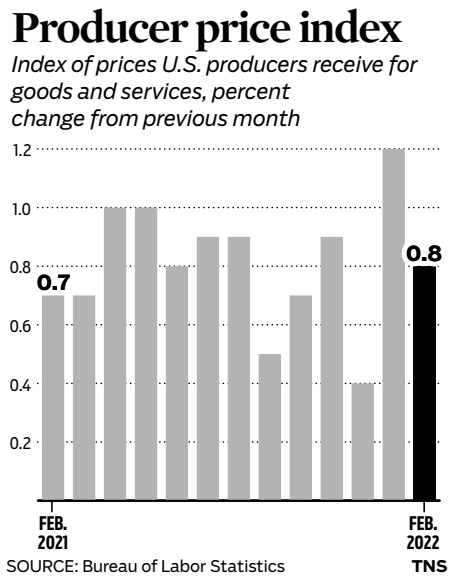
Speaking at the conference, executives

of American Airlines and Delta Air Lines said they saw record daily sales last week.

In investor updates, Delta said it expected revenue for the quarter to slightly exceed its previous estimates, while United Airlines said corporate travel was improving faster than expected, reaching the highest level since the pandemic began.

American said improvement in revenues would “more than offset” the increase in fuel prices, which have spiked since Russia went to war in Ukraine.

Southwest Airlines said it expected operating revenue in the first quarter of this year to be down 8% to 10% compared with the same quarter of 2019. The airline had previously forecast that operating revenues would be off 10% to 15%.



BUSINESS



Fishing boats are moored at port Friday in Fiumicino, Italy. Fishermen, squeezed by higher gas prices, stayed in port, mending nets instead of casting them. **ANDREW MEDICHINI/AP**

Russia’s war with Ukraine taking energy toll on Italy

By Colleen Barry
Associated Press

MILAN — Italian paper mills that make everything from pizza boxes to furniture packaging ground to a halt as Russia’s war in Ukraine has sent natural gas prices skyrocketing.

And it’s not just paper. Italian steel mills turned off electric furnaces last week. And fishermen, facing huge spikes in oil prices, stayed in port, mending nets instead of casting them.

Nowhere more than in Italy, the European Union’s third-largest economy, is dependence on Russian energy taking a higher toll on industry. Some 40% of electricity is generated from natural gas that largely comes from Russia, compared with roughly one-quarter in Germany, another major importer and the continent’s largest economy.

Over the past decade, Italy’s dependence on Russian natural gas has surged from 27% to 43% — a fact lamented by Premier Mario Draghi. It will take at least two years to replace, his energy transition minister says.

Even before the war,

Europe was facing a serious energy crunch that drove up costs for electricity, food, supplies and everything in between for people and businesses. Ever higher prices tied to fears that the conflict will lead to an energy cutoff are hitting the continent much harder than the U.S. because it imports so much of its oil and gas from Russia.

European leaders meeting Friday in Versailles outside Paris discussed ways of easing the pain.

Draghi pushed to diversify gas sources, develop renewables and introduce a cap on natural gas prices. He said his foreign minister, who recently visited Algeria and Qatar, was working on new gas markets.

The urgency of Italy’s energy situation is trickling down to consumers in the form of higher heating bills, and more recently, rising prices at the pump, with gasoline nearing \$6 a gallon this week.

Last week, fisherman squeezed by higher gasoline prices decided not to trawl the waters off Italy, with fishing boats along the peninsula moored in port.

At current prices, it costs \$1,300 a day to run boats out

of Fiumicino, leaving little room for profits after plying the sea for cod, sea bass, sea bream, octopus, squid and shrimp, said Pasquale Di Bartolomeo, who runs one of 22 boats out of the port near Rome.

Restaurants, he said, will make do with frozen seafood or farm-raised fish.

Italy decreased its gas consumption from 2010 to 2014, thanks to the addition of subsidized wind and solar power, but reliance on natural gas pushed back up again in recent years as it took polluting coal power plants offline.

They have been substituted mostly by natural gas as renewables stalled, partly because of Italy’s bureaucracy that has kept many investors away, said Matteo Di Castelnuovo, an energy economist at Milan’s Bocconi University.

“Italy clearly underestimated the problem of increasing its gas consumption the last few years, and with that, its dependence on Russian gas,” he said.

The government has pledged to simplify red tape and recently approved six new wind parks that will produce more than 400 megawatts of energy.

Blue Apron CEO opens up about company’s turnaround

By Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press

Blue Apron was struggling at the start of 2020. The meal kit company was trying to boost sales with new options like premium meals, but it was also considering putting itself up for sale. Then the pandemic happened.

Almost overnight, New York-based Blue Apron gained thousands of customers as restaurants closed and people tried to limit grocery trips.

President and CEO Linda Findley said Blue Apron could have tried to further inflate its customer base during that period.

But she stuck to the company’s turnaround plan, adding even more options like pre-made meals, wellness-focused recipes and add-ons like desserts.

The company has also tried to cut prep times; most of its meals can now be made in 35 minutes or less.

“I said multiple times, ‘It’s a pandemic, not a business model,’” Findley said. “I didn’t want to drive growth off this difficult situation. I was really looking to stay the course and build sustainable growth.”

Findley’s strategy is working. Blue Apron’s customer base has fallen from its early pandemic highs, but those who remain are ordering more and spending more per order.

Findley joined Blue Apron in 2019 from Etsy, where she was chief operating officer. She has also led operations at Evernote and was head of global marketing for Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba.com.

Findley discussed Blue Apron with The Associated Press. Answers have been edited for length.



CEO Linda Findley

How has Blue Apron dealt with rising food costs?

It’s not been as bad as it has been in other industries. We are a direct supply company, so 80% of what we put into a box comes directly from producers. So that means we’re reducing the middleman.

Logistics has actually been one of the most challenging things for us. Not even the last mile — the last mile we’ve been able to manage with FedEx and others. It’s been the line hauls and the supplier side of logistics.

So for that reason, we actually did change our pricing structure back in the fall to add a shipping charge.

You’ve had a really varied career. What is the thread that ties those jobs together?

One of the most important things is really, really focusing on the customer and making sure that you’re thinking about customer needs first. Etsy very aggressively said, “OK, what is a shopper looking for and how do we make it easier for them to sort through these tens of thousands of products that change constantly?”

It was that shift to a rabid focus on the buyer that made such a big impact there. And frankly, here as well. So that’s number one.

Number two is a constant focus on making sure you’re executing against what you said you’re going to do. You can’t sit around and just think all day of great ideas. You actually need to drive them to reality.

And then, for me, I’ve always seen the greatest opportunities in risk.

I just think taking something on that has an opportunity to grow significantly or has a gap between brand and execution is one of the most rewarding things you can do.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

▲ DOW

33,544.34 +599.10

▲ 10-YR T-BOND

2.15% +.01

▼ GOLD

\$1,928.50 -31.10

34,200

33,380

32,560

10 DAYS

Dow Jones Industrials

Close: 33,544.34

Change: 599.10 (1.8%)

37,000

36,000

35,000

34,000

33,000

32,000

S

O

N

D

J

F

M

Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	33,544.34	+599.10	-7.69%
DOW Trans.	15,519.07	+387.98	-5.82%
DOW Util.	988.17	+11.44	+7.5%
NYSE Comp.	15,895.67	+201.32	-7.39%
Nasdaq Comp.	12,948.62	+367.40	-17.23%
S&P 500	4,262.45	+89.34	-10.57%
S&P 400	2,585.33	+38.18	-9.03%
Wilshire 5000	42,718.72	+868.44	-11.85%
Russell 2000	1,968.97	+27.25	-12.31%

Commodities

	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	96.44	103.01	+28.23%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.57	4.66	+22.47%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	3.00	3.17	+34.55%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,928.50	1,959.60	+5.53%
Silver (oz)	25.12	25.24	+7.69%

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx
Britain	1.3032	.7673
Canada	.7823	1.2782
China	.1570	6.3706
Euro	1.0940	.9141
Japan	.008451	118.33
Mexico	.047996	20.8351

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV.	WK.
Prime rate	3.25	3.25	
3-mo. T-Bill	0.47	0.37	
6-mo. T-Bill	0.86	0.71	
5-yr T-Note	2.10	1.80	
10-yr T-Note	2.15	1.86	
30-yr T-Bond	2.50	2.24	

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	13,917.27	-11.84	-.09%	-12.39%
London	7,175.70	-17.77	-.25%	-2.83%
Hong Kong	18,415.08	-1,116.58	-5.72%	-21.30%
Nikkei	25,346.48	+38.63	+1.5%	-11.97%

Stocks of Local Interest							
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	14.48	+92	-46.8	Kaman (KAMN)	42.23	+61	-2.1
AT&T Inc (T)	23.09	+20	-6.1	Keycorp (KEY)	23.84	+03	+3.1
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	109.33	+7.08	-24.0	Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	62.13	+20	-9.0
AgriFORCE Gr Sys Ltd (AGRI)	3.76	-20	+80.8	MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	40.09	+1.29	-10.7
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	15.57	+1.32	-13.3	Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	192.03	+5.40	-42.9
Amphenol Corp (APH)	73.43	+1.94	-16.0	MetLife Inc (MET)	65.32	+63	+4.5
Apple Inc (AAPL)	155.09	+4.47	-12.7	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	287.15	+10.71	-14.6
Astra Space Inc A (ASTR)	3.49	-.02	-49.6	Mullen Automotive (MULN)	1.60	-.17	-69.4
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	44.73	+38	-10.3	Novartis AG (NVS)	84.73	+66	-3.1
Bank of America (BAC)	41.50	+30	-6.7	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	229.73	+16.43	-21.9
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March 14-27

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OPINION

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Cultural boycotts provide no help

By Martin Ivens
Bloomberg Opinion

Banning Tchaikovsky is not the way to win a war. Last week, the Cardiff Philharmonic Orchestra removed the composer's popular "1812 Overture" from its forthcoming program due to the invasion of Ukraine. The work noisily celebrates Russian resistance to Napoleon's invasion.

This absurd decision — Tchaikovsky was seen by his 19th century rivals as a westernizer — follows cultural bans that combine modern cancel culture with old-fashioned war hysteria. One Italian university has even tried to withdraw a course on the great Russian writer Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

At the outbreak of World War I, the English novelist Graham Greene recorded that anti-German feeling was so fierce that a dachshund was stoned on his local high street. (The U.S. Kennel Club renamed the breed "The Liberty Pup," and the British rebranded German shepherd dogs as "Alsations," a name which stuck.) Should we now fear for the safety of borzois on the streets of New York and London?

The Cardiff Philharmonic's pusillanimity may seem comical, but the severing of cultural ties to Russia is no laughing matter. Sanctions help degrade Russia's ability to threaten others. A blanket cultural boycott, however, will hurt those we should be helping — artists who stand up to the Kremlin.

We should learn from the past. In the clumsy cultural boycott of South Africa from the 1960s, both the apartheid state and its enemies were subject to censorship. The rules were later softened.

Today, cultural and sporting organizations tied to the Russian state should be sanctioned, but innocent individuals should not suffer.

It makes sense to ban Russia's national team from the soccer World Cup. Similarly, it was right to scupper the Formula 1 Grand Prix due to be held in Sochi and kick Russia out of the Eurovision Song Contest. Vladimir Putin should be denied access to any international stage that normalizes his regime.

In London, the Royal Opera House's recent cancellation of a coproduction of "Swan Lake" with the Bolshoi Theater falls into the same category, although it is a hard call. The famous company is used as a showcase for state-sponsored Russian culture. "Our beef is not with the Russian people, but with Putin's regime and the appalling humanitarian consequences of



A home is destroyed in a fire Saturday in Irpin, Ukraine, after being bombarded by Russian forces. **MARCUS YAM/LOS ANGELES TIMES**

the invasion of Ukraine," says Alex Beard, chief executive officer of the opera house, which employs Russian and Ukrainian talent. However, he believes it would be inappropriate to demand that individual artists denounce the invasion, if only for fear of the consequences to their friends and relatives back home.

No tears will be shed, however, for Valery Gergiev, the director of the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, who has been stripped of the directorship of the Edinburgh International Festival and his role as conductor of the Munich Philharmonic.

Gergiev staged a victory concert for his patron, Putin, after the annexation of Crimea. In return, the Kremlin has bankrolled the musician's arts empire.

One sporting ban is overdue. Long before the current hostilities, the Russian Olympic team should have been barred from international competition. At the Sunday Times, where I was editor, we helped confirm the existence of an official state doping campaign and yet still the Olympic movement allowed Russian athletes to compete under a flag of convenience. A few weeks ago, the authorities permitted the

15-year-old Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva to compete in the Winter Olympics in Beijing, despite her failing a pre-Games test for performance-enhancing drugs.

And yet, the decision to end official cultural exchanges leaves a bitter taste.

At the height of the Cold War, defections by Russian ballet stars Rudolf Nureyev and Mikhail Baryshnikov from their touring company were seen as symbolic defeats for the Soviet Union. Young artists and athletes exposed to outside societies and values channeled these in their work.

The British cellist Julian Lloyd Webber recalls one of the greatest Russian practitioners of his art, Mstislav Rostropovich, choosing to play the Czech composer Antonin Dvorak's "Cello Concerto" at the BBC's Promenade Concerts with "tears pouring down his cheeks" after Soviet tanks rolled into Prague in 1968. It "spoke more than words," he says.

Even when relations between East and West went back to a deep freeze after the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, exchanges among artists and intellectuals gave encouragement to dissidents.

Russian artists, priests and intellectuals have been the backbone of opposition to

the country's autocrats for centuries. The West should be careful not to isolate those who represent the country's conscience.

Russian artistic dissidents didn't just disappear with the publication of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's "Gulag Archipelago" in the mid-20th century. Today their works defy the country's ultranationalist kleptocracy.

And more than a decade before the current conflict, a bestselling Russian novelist, Vladimir Sorokin, prophesied Putin's ultimate destination. The writer's 2006 novel, "Day of the Oprichnik," describes a dystopian Russia in 2027, with a czar in the Kremlin served by a secret police resembling the brutal bodyguard of Ivan the Terrible. A "Great Russian Wall" separates the country from its Western neighbors. It emerges that the modern Russian language is filled with Chinese expressions, the country manufactures nothing itself, and the czar, readers learn, is an underling of Beijing.

Sorokin's works should form part of any international affairs curriculum.

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How to avoid a Putin recession



Paul Krugman

Kevin McCarthy, the Republican House minority leader, said something cynical and transparently dishonest the other day. To be fair, that's sort of an evergreen remark; you could have said the same thing about him just about any week over the past few years. But this particular statement seemed important, because it involved a lie that has a direct bearing on how America will respond to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Here's what McCarthy tweeted: "These are not Putin gas prices. They are President Biden gas prices."

Now, that's just false. You can argue about how much responsibility Joe Biden's policies bear for inflation in other parts of the economy, but the rising price of gasoline reflects the rising world price of crude oil, which hasn't been significantly affected by anything Biden has done. And soaring crude prices have caused prices at the pump to surge in nations around the world, indeed by roughly the same amount. That is, these really are Putin gas prices.

Why does this matter? Aside from the crassness of McCarthy's attempt to blame Biden for something that really, truly isn't his fault, there's an important economic issue here.

Like it or not, the world is facing a Putin shock: a surge in the prices of oil and other commodities as a consequence both of Russian aggression and of the West's retaliation with economic sanctions. But will the Putin shock lead to a recession (outside Russia itself, which is probably facing a near-depression)?

The answer is that it doesn't have to; we can avoid having a Putin recession. Whether we do depends on our policy response.

And to get this response right, we'll need to be clearheaded about the nature of the problem.

This isn't the first time we've faced a surge in oil prices driven by events outside the United States. The famous examples are the price surges after the 1973 Yom Kippur War and the 1979 Iranian revolution, but there are other big examples, such as the price surge of 2010-2011 as the world economy recovered from the 2008 financial crisis. That surge, by the way, raised gasoline prices very sharply; relative to the average worker's wages, they hit a peak equivalent to more than \$5 a gallon today.

The broader economic consequences of those earlier shocks, however, varied considerably. The oil shocks of the 1970s were followed by severe U.S. recessions; the 2010-11 shock didn't derail the ongoing economic recovery at all. What was different?

In 1997 Ben Bernanke, Mark Gertler and Mark Watson published a classic analysis of the effects of oil price surges on the U.S. economy. They concluded that the recessions that often followed oil shocks mainly reflected "the endogenous monetary policy response." In English (more or less), recessions happened not because oil prices went up, but because the Fed, fearing a wage-price spiral, responded to rising oil prices by sharply raising interest rates. And that's precisely what didn't happen in 2010-2011.

Despite intense pressure from Republicans who warned that the dollar was being debased, Bernanke — by then the chairman of the Fed — and his colleagues stayed the course, keeping rates low. And the Fed's refusal to hike rates was vindicated by events: Gas prices leveled off, inflation didn't take off, and the economy continued to grow.

What does that experience tell us about the current situation? If U.S. inflation were low, the right policy would be obvious: don't raise interest rates. Unfortunately, we've come into the Putin shock with uncomfortably high inflation. And while I'm usually a dove on such matters, I do believe that the Fed should be taking its foot off the gas pedal. That is, it should be gradually raising interest rates to cool off an economy that looks somewhat overheated.

What the Fed should not do, however, is allow itself to be bullied into slamming on the brakes, drastically raising interest rates the way it did in the 1970s.

Rising oil prices will lead to some big inflation numbers over the next few months, and there will be a lot of pressure on the Fed to overreact. Some of this pressure will be coming from people like McCarthy, who insist in the teeth of the facts that high gasoline prices are being caused by domestic policy choices. Some of it will be coming from permahawks, in whose minds we're always about to see a reboot of that '70s show.

But 2022 isn't 1979. Current inflation is high, as are expectations of inflation over the next year, but medium-term expectations of inflation haven't gone up much and are nowhere near their levels circa 1980. This suggests that inflation isn't getting entrenched in the economy. If the economy cools off a bit and the inflationary shock from oil prices is, as I expect it to be, a one-off affair, we'll do OK if the Fed just keeps calm and carries on.

Could I be wrong? Of course. But consider the costs of being wrong in the opposite direction and slamming on the brakes unnecessarily. Right now, it looks as if steady policy can prevent a Putin recession. And that's the result we want to achieve if at all possible.

Krugman is a columnist for The New York Times.

Ukraine war and the retro-future



Ross Douthat

Long before Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, his aggressions were often met by the accusation — leveled by John Kerry and Angela Merkel, among others — that

he's a 19th-century figure in a 21st-century world. It's a line that seemed intended to judge Putin guilty not just of wickedness but of anachronism, which is somehow more confounding to the modern mind.

But today there is a sense in which being a 19th-century man in the 21st century actually makes Putin extremely of the moment — a characteristic figure for our era, not an unfrozen cave man confused by a world that's passed him by. He exemplifies our transition to a kind of retro-future, in which crucial elements of the Victorian age are superimposed on our era's very different social, cultural and technological landscape.

What's returning from the past, as American primacy wanes, is a certain kind of great-power consolidation and competition, echoing the late-1800s dynamics of European empire but this time with global rather than mostly Western players.

In this analogy the United States resembles both Victorian Britain (the great naval power and global imperium) and late-19th-century France (the republic torn apart by culture war) — a long-dominant power haunted by the specter of decline.

Then contemporary China, India, Russia and arguably the European Union all have goals that echo the ambitions of 19th-century Germany and Italy, the Russia of the Romanovs and eventually the Empire of Japan: to establish the largest possible political union based on shared ethnicity or cultural inheritance; to grow strong enough to challenge Anglo-Saxon hegemony; to project power in regions of the globe that lack a dominant nation-state, whether in Central Asia and the Middle East or Africa and Latin America. Within this multipolar world, you have emergent alliances that echo alignments of the kind that preceded World War I — for now, Russia and China against Europe and America. And then you have the smaller nations and regions caught between, stirred by their own ambitions and offering potential tinderboxes for larger wars. Manchuria, Alsace-Lorraine and the Balkans then; today, Taiwan, Afghanistan, Syria and now Ukraine.

But all these echoes and revivals have not brought the 19th century back to life in full. Instead, the old geopolitics is reemerging against a thoroughly 21st-century background.

First, globalization has gone further than it ever did in the 19th century. The scale of our interdependence is sometimes exaggerated, but it is still extraordinary, and so is the scale of wealth at stake in any

sustained disruption of the world system. That doesn't mean that some strands in the vast web cannot be unwound. But to have it happen suddenly and wrenchingly, as is happening to Russia at the moment, is a peril greater than the empire builders of the 19th century faced.

Those empire builders also operated in a world where it was still possible to claim real public legitimacy for imperialism, conquest, autocratic rule. That day may come again, for now even de facto dictators like Putin feel they have to pretend to be democratically elected, pay lip service to self-determination, deny that they're invading their neighbor even when it's obvious to all. This fraudulence then feeds into the cynicism and alienation that are also defining features of our era. The consolidation of Germany or Italy or, for that matter, the United States in the 19th century shaped and were shaped by new forms of mass mobilization and mass politics — including the rise of political parties, labor unions, ideological movements and more. But our age is more a time of fragmentation and isolation, of a retreat into virtual escapes. This promises a near-future world, perhaps, where elites are invested in grand civilizational rivalries but the masses show little enthusiasm for the struggle.

Then, too, today's great powers are much older than their antecedents, lacking the youthful population that past empires relied upon for energy, creativity and cannon fodder. As British writer Ed West has noted, the war in Ukraine is a war between two societies with fertility levels far below replacement, in which families might lose everything when they lose a single son. That raises questions both about how long such a war can be sustained and also what happens in the aftermath.

An energetic figure like Volodymyr Zelenskyy, for instance, evokes the 19th century's youthful nationalists and nationalisms — the Young Turks, Young Ireland. But the nation he's trying to preserve is not actually a young one, and it is possible to imagine a Ukraine that keeps its independence and simply stagnates alongside a senescent Russia, their conflict buried by old age.

Then, finally, ours is a world with nuclear weapons, as the old great-power world was not. This is a difference for the better, one hopes, making certain forms of total war almost unimaginable, giving our leaders an existential reason to avoid that old world's grim 1914-18 terminus. But those leaders will still need real wisdom to navigate a new age of nuclear-power rivalry that will probably be quite different from the Cold War era, and at times more like the distant 19th-century past.

Douthat is a columnist for The New York Times.

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Grant Application. The grant is available for
public inspection on the State Department of
Education website:
<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Special-Education/Special-Education-Fiscal-RFPs-and-Grants>.

The application contains assurances that
the state is in compliance with the 2004 IDEA
Reauthorization in order to remain eligible for
federal financial assistance. The application
also contains a description of the use of
federal funds the state receives from the
Part B grant for administrative activities. The
use of funds description utilizes the FFY21
appropriation. Once the final budget figures
are determined by the federal government,
the State will revise the description of the
use of federal funds accordingly.

The sixty-day public inspection period is from
March 9–May 8, 2022. The thirty-day public
comment period is from March 17–April
16, 2022. The CSDE will host two phone
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comments on March 30 from 9–10:30 a.m.
and March 31 from 1–2:30 p.m.

Call-in phone number: 1-860-840-2075
Pin: 897265359

Print copies of the grant application are
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Written comments may be directed to:
Thomas Boudreau, Connecticut State
Department of Education, Bureau of Special
Education, P.O. Box 2219, Hartford, CT 06145
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Connecticut

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BROWN PAINDIRIS & SCOTT, LLP 2252 Main
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Dated at Glastonbury, Connecticut, this 10th
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By BROWN PAINDIRIS & SCOTT, LLP
Their Attorneys
3/16/2022 7170328

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The State of Connecticut Judicial Branch
invites qualified contractors to submit quotations
to provide Narcan Naloxone HCl Spray
for statewide application.

Quotations must be received by 11:30 A.M.
on FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022. Late bids will not
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Liquor Notices

LIQUOR PERMIT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I, **MATTHEW
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CT 06238**. Have filed an application plac-
arded **03/16/2022** with the Department of
Consumer Protection for a **PACKAGE STORE
LIQUOR PERMIT** for the sale of alcoholic
liquor on the premises at **11 PHELPS WAY
WILLINGTON CT 06279**. The business
will be owned by AMORSAW-LEGACY LLC.
Entertainment will consist of: Objections
must be filed by: 04/27/2022.

03/16/2022
MATTHEW REDFIELD
3/16 & 3/23/22 7169681

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

- Bristol**
Homer F. Lebeau
- East Hartford**
Dorothy Turmel
- Glastonbury**
Kenneth J. Lapier
- Hartford**
Thomas M. Roby
- Manchester**
Sheila D. Sherman
Thomas Welch, Jr.
- Other Towns in CT**
Bart Nicolo
Douglas R Robinson
Thomas M. Roby
Margaret S. Schiffer
- Out of State**
Gailya Miazza
Gloria A. Ruede
Jane P. Turner
- Plainville**
Lucy R. Bull
- Simsbury**
Gailya Miazza
- Tolland**
Sheila D. Sherman
- OUT OF STATE**
Douglas R Robinson
North Yarmouth, ME
Gloria A. Ruede
Bath, ME
Jane P. Turner
Narragansett, RI

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Bull, Lucy Rossi



Lucy (Rossi) Bull, 97, of Plainville, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 12, 2022. She was the wife of the late Harry R. Bull, with whom she shared 23 years of marriage. Born in Hartford on August 1, 1924, she was the last surviving of four children to the late Joseph and Ellen (Santarelli) Rossi. Raised and educated in Hartford, she moved to Plainville shortly after her marriage to Harry in 1952. Lucy was a “numbers girl” who worked in the banking profession for a number of years. Upon retiring from Bank of Boston in 1986, she continued to work part time until the age of 80 for O’Donnell Bros, Inc. in Bristol. A woman who centered her life around her family, she lived simply, loved deeply, and will be remembered fondly for her strength, independence and devotion to those she loved. She was predeceased by her only son, Bruce Reed Bull, and leaves her devoted granddaughters, Heather Pierce (Mario), Megan Sledge (Adam) and Jennifer Bull (Jack Naramore); her daughter-in-law, Lorrie Ferland; great-grandchildren Brayden, Connor and Emma Pierce and Jackson Sledge; and many nieces, nephews and dear friends. In addition to her son and husband, she is now reunited with her sisters, Tina Mingo (Joe) and Yolanda Rossi and her brother, John Rossi (Lucy). In lieu of flowers, Lucy may be remembered with contributions to the Plainville Fire Company Memorial Scholarship Fund, 77 W. Main St, Plainville, CT 06062. Family and friends may gather in celebration of Lucy’s life on Friday, March 18, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St, Plainville. Prayers and words of remembrance will be shared at 12:00 p.m. She will be laid to rest privately at West Cemetery in Bristol. For online expressions of sympathy, please visit www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

LaPier, Kenneth J.



Kenneth J. LaPier, 87, of Glastonbury, CT passed away peacefully at home on March 12, 2022 after a prolonged illness, with his wife of 63 years, Nancy, and his son David by his side. Born in Waterbury, CT on April 11, 1934, Ken was raised in Southington, CT. Ever the industrious entrepreneur, he ran his own muskrat trap line and paper route as a young boy. In 1953, he graduated from Southington High School and joined the United States Air Force. Ken loved to tell stories about his time in the service, often of questionable veracity. He would tell his grandchildren that while in the Air Force he “shot down a blimp, crashed into a mountain and died”, which is slightly different than the description on his discharge paperwork that he was a radio operator who served in Riverside, California and Obu, Japan and was honorably discharged in September of 1957. After his time in the military (and apparent resurrection) he earned an Associates Degree from the University of Hartford Ward School of Electronics in 1960 and started work at Pratt and Whitney. He married Margaret “Nancy” Murphy in 1959 and together they had three sons. In 1977, Ken founded K.J. LaPier Painting Company with his sons, and successfully operated the business until begrudgingly retiring at the age of never. His love of travel carried him on countless trips with Nancy throughout Central and South America and family vacations to Sanibel and Captiva, Florida. He never missed a Yankees game, World War II documentary or a grandchild’s school function. In his later years, he spent his free time lovingly tending to his apple trees and flower garden and endlessly tinkering with the garden’s water feature that always seemed to be in disrepair. He spent his final week at home, sharing stories and laughs with friends and family, drinking scotch, eating steak and listening to Frank Sinatra songs. Ken was predeceased by his parents, Mary and Florin LaPier. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Margaret “Nancy” LaPier, sons, Kenneth C. LaPier, John J. LaPier and David J. Lapier, daughter-in-law, Cindy (née Schultz) LaPier and grandchildren, Jennifer LaPier and Scott LaPier. Friends and family may call upon the LaPier family on Friday, March 18, 2022 from 6:00PM to 8:00PM at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Naubuc Ave. Glastonbury. The funeral will start from Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home on Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 9:15AM with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrating Kenneth’s life will be held at 10:30AM in Saint Paul Church of Ss. Isidore and Maria Parish, 2577 Main Street, Glastonbury. To leave a condolence, or for further information, please visit FarleySullivan.com

Farley-Sullivan
Funeral Home

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Miazza, Gailya

Gailya Miazza, 91, retired Executive Senior Mary Kay Sales Director from Simsbury, CT passed away Feb 27 in High Point, NC. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, James F. Miazza III and her 4 children, 8 grandchildren, one great-granddaughter. Service will be Monday, March 21 at 11 a.m. at Sechrest- Davis Funeral Home. To express sympathy for the family - www.sechrestdavisphillipsavenue.com

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OBITUARIES

Haze, Thomas T.



Thomas T. Haze, 67, of New Britain, died Saturday, March 12, 2022 at home. Thom was born in New Britain, Ct. and was the son of the late Theodore and Victoria (Wosczyzna) Haze. Thom received his biology degree at Central Connecticut State University and with his passion for the outdoors, he pursued a career in the environmental field at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Thom’s first experience as a DEP employee was as an Intern with the Fisheries Division which included working on the Northern Pike Project on the Connecticut River. His first permanent job was with the Water Compliance Unit working primarily on water quality studies in wade-able streams and lakes throughout the State. When not out doing field work, Thom was in the lab at his microscope identifying algae and other indicators of water quality, of DEP that was responsible for permitting wastewater discharges and administrating sewage treatment plant construction projects. His duties included riding around in a truck pulling a boat on a trailer to various lakes and taking chemical and biological samples to assess the water quality. He also got to wade in streams, some polluted and some not, to collect similar samples. He then spent the rest of his time peering through a microscope and discussing insect taxonomy in a language none of the managers understood. It was the perfect job for a young Thom, fresh from graduation at Central CT State U and in love with the outdoors. Thom transitioned to other environmental issues and was lured away from that first job by the opportunity to work on something totally new at the time. It involved testing potentially toxic effluents using aquatic organisms. The new concept became the Aquatic Toxicity Program. Thom was key in creating the program building the testing laboratory and conducting the testing concept of regulating pollutants as mixtures of toxic compounds by directly measuring the impact on organisms, also known a bioassays or toxicity tests, was coming into vogue. Thom built the State Aquatic Toxicity Laboratory from the ground up in response to the need for DEP to have independent testing capacity in order to implement this approach. Thom’s proficiency with computer programs resulted in his being tapped to work on another major DEP initiative, the Long Island Sound Nitrogen Trading Program. Thomas contributed greatly to the success of this effort which became a model for similar programs nationwide. He created computer programs that are used consisting of nitrogen discharge loading monitoring and financial data on treatment costs at facilities across the State and were key to the success of the program. Thomas served as a mentor to many of the younger staff. He was frequently called in to trouble-shoot on other projects. Thomas was always available to help and was much loved and respected by all. Thom is survived by his two sisters, Geraldine (James) Claveau of Farmington and Elizabeth Haze (Roberta Collins) of Kensington, two nieces, Sara Gerhold and Emily Claveau, four great nieces, Halle, Lauren, Laney and Kiera. Funeral services for Thom will be held Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 11 am from the Paul A. Shaker Funeral Home, 764 Farmington Ave, New Britain. Burial will be private in Sacred Heart Cemetery. Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home from 10 am to 11 am. To share a memory of Thom, please visit: shakerfuneralhome.com In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Ocean Conservancy and the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

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Welch Jr., Thomas (Tom)



Thomas (Tom) P. Welch, Jr., 88, of Manchester, formerly of Dudley, MA, passed away on March 13th, 2022. Following a brief illness, he passed away peacefully surrounded by his family and good friend. Tom was born and raised in Southbridge, MA. He graduated from Southbridge (Wells) High and attended University of Maine at Oreno for 2 years, before enlisting in the US Navy during the Korean War. Tom was married to Joan (Sinon) Welch in 1981 for many happy years. Tom worked as an Inspection Foreman for Pratt and Whitney for 35 plus years. Tom enjoyed woodworking and was a lifelong Red Sox fan and a loyal New England Patriot ticket holder. Tom was also actively involved as a member of the British American Club of Manchester CT, where he enjoyed playing darts and being with his buddies. Tom is survived by wife Joan Welch, daughter Donna Magowan and her husband Bill of Manchester, daughter Lynne Hamilton and her husband Paul of Windsor, daughter Renee Welch of Dudley, MA and daughter Tracy Moore and her husband Wayne of Lexington, KY; 8 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, and many beloved nieces and nephews. His many friends, neighbors, B.A. buddies and his very good friends John and Chet. Tom was preceded in death by his first wife, Lorraine (Rousseau) Welch, son Thomas P. Welch III, infant daughter Lisa Sharon Welch and his brothers William Welch, Donald Welch, and Richard (Dick) Welch, and his parents Thomas P. Welch, Sr. and Blanche (Love) Welch. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, March 19th at 10 am at St. Bridget Church in Manchester, CT. Burial will follow at St. Bridget Cemetery on Oakland St. Family and friends may call on Friday, March 18th from 4-7 pm at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home in Manchester. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Shriners Children’s Hospital of New England/ Springfield, MA. The family of Thomas would like to thank the staff of the hospice unit at Manchester Memorial Hospital. For online condolences, please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.

JOHN F.
Tierney
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Robinson, Douglas R

Douglas Raymond Robinson, 76, of North Yarmouth, Maine, died Monday evening, March 7, 2022, at home. He was married to Krysia (Olszewski) Robinson for 50 years. Son of the late Raymond Robinson and Muriel (Petterson) Robinson Edgar, he was born in Boston, Massachusetts, November 17, 1945. Doug lived in Dorchester and Braintree, until the family moved to Glen Ridge, New Jersey, in 1957. While in Glen Ridge he enjoyed track and field, especially the pole vault. He learned to play the guitar and co-founded the trio called the Rum Runners. He graduated from Glen Ridge High School and attended Yankton College, Yankton, South Dakota. He enlisted in the Air Force serving from 1966-1969. He received an honorable discharge when his father became ill. In the service, he learned computer programming which became the foundation for his professional life. He worked at The Howard Savings Bank, Newark, New Jersey. Doug and Krysia welcomed their first child, Jeremy in 1972. In 1976, they moved to Connecticut where Doug began working for Connecticut Online Computer Center, Avon, CT. They welcomed their daughter, Stephanie in 1977. Doug worked at COCC for the rest of his career, retiring in 2002 as Executive Vice President. Throughout Doug’s life there were constants: he loved his family, the outdoors, animals, and fishing. His family spent vacations on Great Herring Pond, Bourne, Massachusetts. He adored the quiet of the lake fishing in the mornings and the Red Sox on the radio in the evenings. Doug loved to listen and learn. He loved chess, puzzles and playing the guitar. Doug was thoughtful – a thinker and a problem solver. He gave the best advice. In retirement, Doug learned woodworking and made beautiful works of art that he shared with family and friends. Douglas was generous and kind. He chose to be an anatomical donor to The University of New England, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Biddeford, Maine. This self-less gift supports medical students while they learn. In addition to his wife, he is survived by two children, Jeremy Robinson and his wife, Allison, of Swaney, New Hampshire, and Stephanie Thibodeau of Saco, Maine; two grandchildren, Molly Robinson, and Jason Robinson; a sister, Janet Robinson of Ventura, CA, and her son, Damon Kirsche of Valley Village, CA; two nieces, Jessica Willson and Samantha Amato, of Florida; his sister-in-law, Alexandra Hakimdin of North Easton, MA, and her son, Kamran Hakimdin of South Easton, MA; his cousin, Deborah Cavalcante of North Carolina; dear family friend, Roby Thibodeau of Biddeford, Maine; and extended family. Doug was predeceased by his grandparents Alfred and Ruth Petterson and his beloved brother, Lee Robinson of Tilton, New Hampshire. The family will gather this summer to remember Doug and give thanks for his life. To honor this gentle, strong, smart, and kind man – “be generous and loving”.

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Roby, Thomas M.



Thomas Roby of Branford died peacefully on Saturday March 12, 2022 at CT Hospice in Branford after a brief illness. He was the beloved husband of 43 years to Geraldine Moccia Roby of Branford. Thomas was born in Hartford on February 19, 1944, son of the late Marcel (Tank) and Mary Rogers Roby. He was Senior Account Agent for Allstate Insurance for many years until his retirement in 2001. Thomas also served in the Army National Guard during the Vietnam War era. Besides his wife, Thomas is survived by his children Jeffrey Roby of Glastonbury, Christian Roby of West Hartford, Andrew Roby of Kamas, Utah, and Ashley Negron (Michael) of Wallingford; his Grandchildren William & Matthew Roby, and Madilyn Negron; his brother Peter Roby of Okatie, S.C., and sister Nancy Squillacote of Wethersfield. He was also adored by his many nieces and nephews. Thomas was a lifelong fan of the Boston Red Sox, Big East Basketball Championships and absolutely loved spending days at Point of Woods Beach with his family in Old Lyme, CT. His most recent hobby was collecting and selling antiques at The Past Antiques Marketplace in Oakdale. He absolutely loved the last vacation he took with his wife, driving cross country to visit his son in Utah, as they truly loved taking rides together. Friends may call Friday from 4-7 P.M. at the W.S. Clancy Memorial Funeral Home, 244 North Main St. Branford, CT. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Shiners Hospitals for Children in Boston. Please see his online memorial @ www.wsclancy.com

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Ruede, Gloria A. (Edson)



Bath - Gloria A. Ruede, 70 of Bath passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family at her home on March 12, 2022. She was born on August 29, 1951 a daughter of the late Parker Edson Sr. and Thyrsa "Rusty" Edson.

Gloria retired from Dirigo FCU and in her spare time she enjoyed sewing, quilting, playing, cribbage, reading and cooking her favorite meals. She was most fond of spending time with her family. She was a fiery, fierce, strong, stubborn, independent, loving spirit.

Gloria is survived by her daughter Olivia Nappe and her husband Eddie, grandson Wesley Ruede, granddaughter Cassandra Ruede, great granddaughter Melody Ruede as well as by her siblings Gwen, Parker, Laura and Richard and her nieces and nephew.

A celebration of Gloria's life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are in the care of Funeral Alternatives. Condolences may be shared at FuneralAlternatives.net

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OBITUARIES

Schiffer, Margaret Seifert



July 4, 1930 – March 12, 2022
Margaret Seifert Schiffer, a longtime resident of Claryville, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 12. She was 91 years old. In her home, surrounded by many of her children and grandchildren, she went to her eternal father. Born in Teaneck, N.J. to the late John and Rose Seifert, Margaret began coming to Claryville as a young girl. As a teen she worked at the Grossinger's Airport, taking her pay in flying lessons. Later she worked at Camp St. Joseph in Forestburgh as a camp counselor and archery instructor. This was where she met her future husband Mike, also a camp counselor, in a canoe in the middle of the lake. Margaret graduated with a Bachelor's degree from the College of New Rochelle. She was an accomplished artist, teacher, jeweler, and a certified gemologist. With a life-long passion for learning new skills, in her mid-80's she became a talented wood-turner and co-founder of Claryville Woodworks. Margaret was married to the late H. Michael Schiffer for nearly 60 years. Together they raised their family in Bloomfield, CT. Family was always the most important thing in her life. Summers, weekends, and any free time was spent with family and friends in Claryville. In 1994, she and Mike retired to Claryville and immersed themselves in numerous community activities. At the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, she served as a Eucharistic Minister. She was a trustee for the Daniel Pierce Library, active in the Head Start program, and a cemetery board member for the Claryville Reformed Church. As a member of the Claryville Fire Department for 28 years, Margaret served countless numbers of people at the monthly pancake breakfasts and always made everyone feel welcome. Margaret was predeceased by her beloved husband Mike and her daughter Elizabeth. She leaves behind her 11 children and their spouses, 49 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and countless friends. She was kind, generous and touched the lives of so many, embracing everyone as if they were her own. At her request, a celebration of Margaret's life is planned for 11:00 am on Saturday, July 2, 2022 at the River's Edge Pavilion, 6 Tannery Way, Claryville, N.Y. In her memory, donations may be made to the Schiffer Children's Reading Room at the Daniel Pierce Library, P.O. Box 268, 328 Main Street, Grahamsville, N.Y. 12740. Arrangements are under the care of Colonial Memorial Funeral Home, 396 State Route 52, Woodbourne, NY. For additional information, please contact the funeral home at 845-434-7363 or visit the website at www.colonialfamilyfuneralhomes.com.

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Sherman, Sheila Dianne (Lehman)

Sheila Dianne (Lehman) Sherman, 67, of Willington, CT, beloved wife of Clarence L. Sherman passed away on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. Born January 9, 1955, in Mason, Ohio, the daughter of Robert and Mary (Meek) Lehman. She was a dedicated mother, grandmother and wife who put the needs of those around her first and did all that she could to ensure every member of our 'blended' family was included. Besides her husband, she is survived by her sisters, Susan and Sheryl, son Robert (Jamie), daughter Erica (Brandon), son Scott, daughter Laura (Al), son Glenn (Kim), daughter Jennifer (Andre'), and grandchildren Kaylee, Morgan, Audrey, Henry, and Samuel. She was predeceased by her parents and brothers Roger and Robert. Relatives and friends are welcome to join the family from 4 to 6 PM with a memorial service following at 6 PM on Friday, March 18th at the Tolland Memorial Funeral Home, 375 Merrow Rd. (Rte. 195), Tolland, CT 06084. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

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Turner, Jane P. (Prior)








































93, died March 12, 2022 peacefully at her home after a long and full life. She was the daughter of the late James H. and Jane (Doyle) Prior. Jane was born on February 17, 1929 and grew up in Cranston, RI, attending St. Paul's School and Cranston High. In 1949, she graduated from the Rhode Island Hospital School of Nursing. Jane was the beloved wife of the late Joseph Gustave Turner for 56 years. After marrying in 1951, they settled in Vernon, CT where they raised their family. In addition to working at Rockville Memorial Nursing Home, Jane taught CCD at Sacred Heart Parish and volunteered as a Girl Scout troop leader. There were frequent trips to visit family and enjoy the beach in Narragansett where Jane and Joe built a beach house. After moving to Rhode Island in 1999, Jane became an active member of St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish. She served as a Eucharistic minister, attended bible study and was a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Jane was an avid bridge player, she enjoyed sewing and playing the piano and traveling in her later years. Above all, Jane loved seeing her family together on holidays and at the beach. Always loving and supportive, she attended many athletic events, performances and the milestones of her 14 grandchildren. Jane will be missed by her family: James Turner, his wife Meloney and their children Jared and Emily and her husband James Farrelly of Lebanon, CT; Joseph Turner D.O., his wife Natalie and their children Joseph and Natalie of Warwick, RI; Patricia Koelbel, her husband John and their children Callie, Maria and Matthew of Saint Leonard, MD; Michael Turner, his wife Maureen and their children Lindsay and Jennifer of Marlborough, CT; Jean Eckland, her husband Kevin and their children Colin, Robert and Amy of Kennebunk, ME and Maureen Kraus, her husband Thomas and their children Ellery and James of Foxborough, MA. She is survived by her brother James Prior and sister Clair McCue. She is predeceased by her daughter, Jane Marie Turner, granddaughter, Hillary Eckland, sister Margaret Newbold and brother William Prior. Calling hours will take place Wednesday, March 16, 2022 from 5 PM to 7 PM in the Avery-Storti Funeral Home, 88 Columbia Street, Wakefield. A mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 10:30 AM at St. Mary Star of the Sea, 864 Point Judith Road, Narragansett, RI 02882. Burial will follow in St. Ann Cemetery in Cranston. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mary Star of the Sea Church. For online condolence visit www.averystortifuneralhome.com.

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 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	 MARINES 2	 LIONS CLUB	 METHODIST CHURCH	 ORTHODOX COMBINED CROSS	 PRAYER HAND
 ORTHODOX RUSSIAN CROSS	 STAR OF DAVID	 FOOTBALL	 POLICE BADGE	 CORE ORGAN DONOR	 SHAMROCK
 MASONIC	 ANGEL	 BALLOONS	 BASEBALL	 BASKETBALL	 BUTTERFLY
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Lawmakers weigh mental health bills

Legislators have said behavioral care for children is a priority. Here's what they're considering.

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

State lawmakers have emphasized that addressing Connecticut's crisis in children's mental health care would be a top priority in the current legislative session. Now, a wide range of proposals will soon be under consideration by the General Assembly, including efforts to expand mental health support for student athletes, to shore up the child care industry

and providing funding for children seeking care in the wake of abuse or neglect. "This session, some of the most important things that will happen across all different committees may be the work on children's mental health," state Sen. Saud Anwar, a D-South Windsor, said Tuesday during a meeting of the Children's Committee. Efforts to address the crisis in children's mental health have broadly earned bipartisan support

in the state legislature. "I know that all caucuses want to do something in the area of mental health this session," Senate Republican Leader State Sen. Kevin Kelly, R-Stratford, said during the Children's Committee meeting. Here are some of the ways that lawmakers aim to improve the lives of Connecticut children:

Expanding youth resources

Senate Bill No. 2, a lengthy bill including a number of provisions that would support mental health

prevention programs, was passed out of the Children's Committee on Tuesday. Anwar described Senate Bill No. 2 as a "primary prevention" bill, while the related House Bill No. 5001, which addresses school-based mental health resources and workforce issues, represents a "secondary and tertiary" prevention bill. Senate Bill No. 2, which spans more than 40 sections, includes provisions to expand access to mental health support for student athletes, study the mental health impact of social media on K-12 students, provide training in adolescent screening and intervention

to local health departments and boards of education and establish a Children's Behavioral Health Cabinet within the executive branch. The bill would also establish a fund to cover the cost of mental health services, to be administered by the Department of Children and Families, to address the "social determinants of mental health," ranging from adverse early life experiences to poor educational opportunities and poverty. "We sometimes look at mental health in isolation, but sometimes the environment and social

[Turn to Care, Page 2](#)



Trees encroaching on power lines along Birge Road in Bristol are cut back through a new Eversource initiative using what they call "scorecards" to assess areas needing cutting to "show thoughtful tree work can help to strengthen the grid." **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

Tree 'scorecards' show where work is needed

Eversource initiative offers local snapshot of removals and outages

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

The power company that serves most of Connecticut is distributing "scorecards" with town-by-town information on maintenance and removal of the state's beloved, but often hazardous roadside trees. Announced Tuesday at the site of scheduled tree trimming in Bristol, Eversource's tree scorecards are snapshots of scheduled maintenance, along with information on power outages and blocked roads caused by downed trees and branches.

More frequent and intense storms in the past few years have highlighted the need to alert municipal leaders and residents about the importance of tree maintenance, utility officials say. Newington's scorecard, for instance, shows maintenance this year is scheduled on 27 of 77 miles of roadway, including 11 "backbone" miles, following the primary lines from substations. The town's scorecard shows downed trees and branches blocked 56 roads from 2016-21 and outages last year totaled 130, of which 23% were tree related, impacting 6,391 of 14,831 customers for 1,142,578 minutes. "We've found these new scorecards have opened up the dialogue with property owners and town

leaders and added more context to our ongoing conversations about tree trimming," Eversource's head of vegetation management, Sean Redding, said. "As Connecticut is one of the most heavily forested states in the country (60% of the state), we're constantly working to improve day-to-day reliability for our customers during all types of weather with consistent tree trimming, and we continue to see fewer power outages where this work has been done," Redding said. This year, Eversource is investing \$72 million in tree trimming and hazardous tree removal, according to the utility. The company plans to trim trees along 4,000 miles of overhead distribu-

tion lines, about a quarter of the 16,000-mile total. The scorecards have been distributed to officials in the 149 communities that Eversource serves, and some have been posted on municipal and community Facebook pages. Some of the most extensive work this year is scheduled in Woodstock along 154 miles of roads, in Danbury and Haddam along approximately 113 miles and 93 miles in Cheshire. Other communities where work will be completed include Greenwich, Stamford, Killingly, Sharon, Norwalk and Stafford. Eversource notifies customers in advance if tree work is necessary on their property, but some

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NEW BRITAIN

Police had eyes on arson suspect

Woman had been on radar before church, synagogue fires

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Even before the March 11 fires at a New Britain synagogue and church led to her arrest on arson charges, Kimorah Parker was on the radar of police, according to a warrant for her arrest. Parker, 30, of New Britain, was a person of interest in vandalism at a Greek Orthodox church, a small fire at a church on Curtis Street and a fire in a Grove Hill house, the warrant says. The three incidents happened in the days before the Friday night synagogue and church fires. Parker, who police say also is known as Akeem McDavid, was seen walking near the Greek Orthodox Church immediately after someone threw a rock through its window, and she posted a comment on Facebook about the fire at the vacant home within hours of the blaze, the warrant says. The warrant doesn't say what her comment was, but on March 8 she posted: "So some [expletive] burned down my dream house" and said she was angry with New Britain. The day before, she posted a comment about how she knocked on every church door in her town but "there were no answers."

Parker was arrested Saturday and charged with third-degree burglary and third-degree arson in connection with the fire at the vacant Congregation Tephareth Israel Synagogue, which was set in three separate places in the basement, the warrant says. She was in custody Tuesday at the Hartford Correctional Center on \$260,000 bail. She has a history of conviction

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STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Bronin's plans lifted by an infusion of federal dollars

Mayor says key focus will be pandemic recovery for residents, businesses

By Daniela Altimari
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — When he took office in 2016, Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin was confronted with an immediate \$3.5 million shortfall and a projected \$30 million deficit for the coming fiscal year. The 2022 fiscal picture is decidedly brighter, thanks to a transformative infusion of cash from the federal government, money that will give Bronin's ambitious agenda a major lift. It will also allow the Democratic mayor to offer a reduction in the property tax rate. In his state of the city address, delivered Monday at



Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin outlined his vision for Hartford in Monday's state of the city address. **COURANT FILE 2021**

the Park Street library branch, Bronin did not specify the amount of his tax cut.

"It won't be as big a reduction as I wish that it could be," he said. "But it will help at least a little. It'll get our mill rate down below 70 for the first time in more than 15 years. And it will be the largest reduction in our property tax rate in more than 30 years." The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, signed into law by President Joe Biden a year ago, has bolstered the economic fortunes of cities and states across the nation. Hartford is set to receive a total of \$112 million. Bronin is allocating a significant portion of the funds to address the economic pain inflicted on businesses and residents, particularly young people, by the coronavirus crisis. "Our first priority was invest-

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Connecticut nursing home shut down after two resident deaths

State inspection found seven serious violations at Wallingford facility

By Dave Altimari
CT Mirror

A Wallingford nursing home that once served as a COVID-19 recovery center will be shuttered after two patients died and a state Department of Public Health inspection that followed uncovered seven life-threatening violations. The 94 residents in the Quinnipiac Valley Center will be transferred to other facilities. The DPH assigned a temporary manager to oversee the transfer of the patients and sent an emergency alert to all nursing home providers, seeking new homes for the residents. Quinnipiac Valley Center is

owned by a national chain, the Genesis Corporation, but the company has been selling some of its assets in Connecticut over the past year. DPH spokesman Christopher Boyle said Monday that there had been two deaths at the Quinnipiac Valley Center that led to the investigation. "Two deaths triggered the initial complaint investigation and led to an intensive federal survey and escalating federal and state intervention, including ongoing monitoring, the directed plan of correction and appointment of the temporary manager," Boyle said. The DPH is working with the Office of the Attorney General, the state's Long-term Care Ombudsman Program, and an assigned temporary manager to facilitate

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CONNECTICUT

Is it time to end federal oversight of DCF?

State, consent decree plaintiffs file motion to end decades-old deal

By Jenna Carlesso
CT Mirror

Seeking to end federal oversight of the state Department of Children and Families, the state and plaintiffs in the decades-old Juan F. consent decree have filed a motion to exit the arrangement. “Over the past 32 years, [DCF] has made organizational and operational changes that have dramatically improved the way the agency provides services to children and families in Connecticut,” attorneys for the state and the plaintiffs wrote in court papers. “These changes have positively impacted children and families involved with DCF. The department has also imple-

mented policies and practices that are designed to ensure that these improvements will be sustained.” In 1989, lawyers for 10-year-old Juan F. and other children filed the lawsuit, challenging DCF’s (then the Department of Children and Youth Services) practices, funding and policies in relation to neglected or abused children in custody and those who may be put into DCF custody. The state struck a deal with the plaintiffs in 1991, entering into the decree, which set new staffing ratios and laid out sweeping new policies for the department. The decree also required the court to appoint a monitor who would ensure the mandates were met. The state has made varied degrees of progress over the years. In 2017, a federal judge ordered Connecticut to commit to certain staffing and caseload levels for social workers as

a key step toward ending oversight of the agency. By the following year, the department had hired 120 new employees, allowing DCF to reduce worker caseloads. In a 2018 report, Raymond Mancuso, the court-appointed monitor, noted that DCF had met its goals for decreasing the number of children in group facilities and institutions, placing more children with siblings, limiting the number of moves for children in foster care and ensuring that children are placed in homes operating within their licensed capacity. The department fell short in the areas of investigation practice, case planning process, meeting children and families’ service needs, and appropriate visitation with household and family members of the agency’s in-home cases, he wrote. A 2019 report by Mancuso noted that DCF was failing to

comply with five of the 10 important measures in the oversight plan, including providing enough mental health and substance abuse services and sufficiently engaging older children in their own case plans. Concerns were also raised about the quality of child abuse and neglect investigations and with case worker visits for children who remain in their family’s home under agency supervision. The following year, for the first time in almost three decades, the monitor found that DCF had sufficiently lowered caseloads for social workers. “Reasonable caseload sizes and relative stability in the workforce allow the Department to better concentrate on the best practice issues so important to the outcomes for children and families,” Mancuso wrote. Vanessa Dorantes, commissioner of DCF, commended the

work that her department has done. “The DCF of today benefits from three decades’ work of child welfare evolutions and positions Connecticut to lead best practice areas and improved outcomes in support of the children and families we serve,” she said in a statement Monday. Plaintiffs and the state are awaiting a federal court date for the motion to be heard. “We are grateful for the collaboration between the plaintiffs, court monitor, Office of the Attorney General, and the Department of Children and Families to bring forth this legal filing,” Gov. Ned Lamont said Monday. “Children and families will continue to be in the forefront of our efforts moving forward.”

Jenna Carlesso is a reporter for The Connecticut Mirror (<https://ctmirror.org/>). Copyright 2022 © The Connecticut Mirror.

Hartford

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ing in young people and helping our young people to recover, reconnect and heal after everything they’ve been through,” Bronin said. The city will partner with Active City’s Youth Sports Collaborative to launch a free sports program for 1,000 children, ranging in age from 5 to 14. It will also collaborate with Girls for Technology and GalaxE Solutions to train city residents for jobs in information technology. Some of the money aimed at helping young people has already been dispersed: In 2021, the city doled out \$1.5 million in grants to 68 agencies that serve youth in the city. Recipients included the Girl Scouts, the Center for Latino Progress and the Ebony Horsewomen. The city said a second round of grants will be announced in coming weeks. Our Piece of the Pie, a youth service agency that provides workforce development and runs service learning programs to youth in Hartford, will receive a total of \$1.5 million over the next three years. The money will help the agency expand its offerings and reach more young people, said CEO and President Hector Rivera. “This will definitely provide some growth potential for the organization,” he said.

Our Piece of the Pie has an annual budget of about \$2.7 million and serves about 200-250 young people, many of whom have been previously incarcerated, come through the foster care system or “have participated in risky behaviors,” Rivera said. The federal money will allow the agency to increase the number of young people it serves to 350, Rivera said. “It also might allow a young person to stay on an extra year,” he said, “and we’ll be able to provide more emergency support” in the form of child care, housing and transportation to program participants. Bronin will also allocate some of the federal dollars flowing into the city to policing, community-based gun violence initiatives and efforts to help businesses hurt by pandemic-related closures. The mayor said he intends to use the cash-inflow from the federal government to make lasting change. “We ... want to make sure that we are making investments that allow us to get the benefit of these resources for years and years to come,” Bronin said. “So we can see and feel the difference, even after the dollars are gone. And to do that, we can do things like fixing up blighted buildings, activating vacant lots around our city, pursuing neighborhood projects that have been long sought.”

Home

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safe and appropriate transfers for all the residents. Investigators with DPH’s Facilities Licensing and Investigations Section entered the building on Feb. 10 after receiving a complaint. The initial survey resulted in two findings of “Immediate Jeopardy,” meaning the violations were serious enough to risk imminent harm to life. DPH officials didn’t specify what the violations were. DPH directed a plan of correction, which included the appointment of the temporary manager on March 3. The temporary manager reported to DPH additional issues with the facility, including, among other things, systemic problems with medication errors, DPH officials said. DPH then identified five more instances of immediate jeopardy related to failure to administer medications appropriately and accurately to residents and failure to report adverse incidents, according to DPH. The facility also has been experiencing significant failures with infection control, DPH officials said. “Quinnipiac Valley Center is committed to the safety and well-being of our patients and residents,” said Genesis spokeswoman Lori Mayer. “Recently, Quinnipiac Valley Center received deficiencies related to surveys conducted at the center and a temporary manager was assigned to the Center by the Connecticut Department of Health.” “At this time, the Center is currently cooperating with the temporary manager regarding the discharge of all patients and residents to other local facilities,” Mayer said. “Any instance of Immediate Jeopardy is troubling, and most facilities can correct these deficiencies rela-

tively quickly and successfully,” wrote DPH Commissioner Manisha Juthani. “Seven instances of Immediate Jeopardy are unprecedented in Connecticut and absolutely unacceptable.” “We have given QVC ample time to correct the issues, and DPH staff have been monitoring the facility almost daily. We no longer have confidence that the facility can keep its residents safe. Moving people from their homes on short notice is a serious action that we do not take lightly. But we are convinced that this order is necessary to ensure the safety of all the residents there.” “This transfer order is a rare and extreme measure, reflecting severe standard of care concerns at Quinnipiac Valley Center. The findings regarding patient neglect, staffing, infection control measures, medication administration and their lack of leadership led to a finding of imminent harm by Commissioner Juthani, leaving the state no choice but to intervene,” Attorney General William Tong said. “Our Health and Education Section is continuing to provide legal support to the Commissioner.” The closing of a nursing home on such short notice is very rare. The last time the state did so was during the pandemic, when the Three Rivers Nursing Home in Norwich was closed after a COVID outbreak caused by a nurse returning from vacation and bringing the virus into the facility. Four people died of COVID in the Norwich facility. The Wallingford facility, which was only about half full, served as a COVID-19 recovery center as recently as a few months ago. Genesis was transferring its own patients there along with patents from other nursing homes that didn’t believe they had the amount of staff needed to care for recovering COVID patients.

Trees

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people refuse to allow crews on their land. In those cases, Redding said the utility works with municipal tree wardens to try and persuade property owners. In refusals involving trees deemed hazardous, Eversource can appeal to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. But Redding said those cases are rare; only two were filed last year. Bristol public works Director Raymond Rogozinski, who is also the city tree warden, said it’s important to strike a balance between the aesthetic and environmental benefits of trees and the need for preven-

tive maintenance. “That’s why it’s so important that we work together — that property owners participate along with the towns, the state and Eversource — to address these tree issues,” Rogozinski said. For more information on state laws affecting tree cutting and removal, visit portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Forestry/Urban-Forestry/Trees-and-Utilities. For more information on Eversource’s vegetation management program, visit eversource.com/content/ct-c/residential/about/reliability/vegetation-management.

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State lawmakers weigh bills to address juvenile crimes

By Daniela Altimari
Hartford Courant

State lawmakers are considering a number of bills this year that would change the way children and teens are treated by the criminal justice system. During a lengthy public hearing Monday, the legislature’s judiciary committee heard testimony on several of the measures. They include:

Senate Bill 16

This omnibus criminal justice measure, proposed by Gov. Ned Lamont, has several components. It would give police access to arrest records of cases of involving juveniles from the past 90 days. It would also permit the police to detain a juvenile for up to eight hours — from the current limit of six — if an officer is waiting for a judge to sign an order of detention or if the officer is actively engaged in contacting the juvenile’s parents or guardian. The bill classifies as serious offenses charges including failing to stop a motor vehicle when signaled, evading responsibility leading to death or a serious injury, and second-degree burglary. Additionally, a second violation of auto theft would be considered a serious offense. If approved, the bill would also

place children arrested for auto theft to be placed under electronic monitoring if it wasn’t their first offense. The bill also includes several “common sense” gun-control proposals that will enhance public safety, James Rovella, commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, told the committee.

House Bill 5418

This proposal, crafted by the Republican caucus in the House of Representatives, has some similar provisions to Lamont’s proposal. But it contains several significant differences. Chief among them: It would allow 13- and 14-year-olds charged with certain violent crimes to be handled by criminal courts, not the juvenile justice system.

Senate Bill 365

Proposed by Sen. Kevin Kelly, the Republican leader in the state Senate, this measure would also allow juvenile cases involving 14-year-olds charged with certain violent offenses to be transferred to the criminal courts. This bill also allows GPS monitoring of juveniles charged with violent crimes. During the hearing, Marisa

Halm, an attorney and the director of the Youth Justice Project at Center for Children’s Advocacy, told lawmakers that placing juvenile offenders in a criminal court system meant for adults results in a worse outcome both for the offender and for society. “Making these blanket changes will not serve the vast majority of youth,” Halm said. “They’re going to actually do worse.” Rep. Craig Fishbein, a Republican from Wallingford, disagreed. “I understand that some people don’t want any kids to go to jail no matter what, but at some point somebody’s got to say ‘what you’re doing is wrong’ and do something about it,” he said. Rep. Toni Walker, a Democrat from New Haven, cited research that shows teenagers handled by the juvenile justice system are less likely to become repeat offenders than those prosecuted in the criminal court. “When children go to a children’s facility ... the percentage of recidivism is extremely low compared with adults,” Walker said. “Because when they’re going into adult prisons and adult courts, they are being exposed to opportunities and things that are far worse than what they have probably done.”

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Fires

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tions for interfering with police, larceny and assault and was on special parole at the time of her arrest, court records show.

Friday night fires

According to the affidavit, 911 dispatchers received an anonymous call about 8 p.m. Friday from someone who said the synagogue at 76 Winter St. was on fire. The fire spread behind the basement walls and put a hole in the first floor. It was under control and stopped spreading by about 9 p.m.

Care

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determinants of health can lead to mental health issues, and in order to resolve them, we need resources...so this bill is going to address that part as well,” Anwar said. House Bill No. 5001 — a wide-ranging proposal to expand behavioral health services for children — is currently before the legislature’s Public Health committee. That bill would increase support for pediatricians, fund the staffing of in-school mental health clinicians, create evidence-based peer support programs in schools and confront insurance issues that impact the mental health field.

Supporting child care

Legislators have also drawn attention to a deepening crisis in childcare, as day care centers struggle with short staffing and stagnant wages. In addition to addressing mental health issues, Senate Bill No. 2 would extend a lifeline to the child care industry, which experts and providers say is in a state of crisis. The bill would increase the per-child cost of the Office of Early Childhood’s school readiness program — which provides affordable childcare in high-need communities — and raise

the hourly salary of child care workers in the state, among other provisions. “Working parents really have long struggled to find affordable, quality child care in our state,” said Rep. Robin Comey, D-Branford, said Tuesday, noting that the issue predated, but was exacerbated by, the COVID-19 pandemic. Comey argued that the bill would “address the true cost of child care” by providing living wages for child care workers, which she called a move in the “right direction” for the state.

Addressing sexual abuse issues

A number of legislative proposals would address child sexual abuse issues and expand support for victims, including H.B. 5242, which would create a task force on online child sexual abuse and exploitation. H.B. 5238, which would make funding available for the medical care of minor victims of sexual assault or child abuse and neglect, was passed out of committee on Tuesday. Rep. Liz Linehan, D-Cheshire, noted during the Children’s Committee Tuesday that there is already a fund within the Office of Victim Services that allows for out-of-pocket reimbursement for victims of certain crimes; H.B.

pane, smashing it and allowing the person to use the inside door handle to let themselves in. A police dog later tracked a black latex glove found on the ground outside the church to Parker, according to the warrant. Shortly before 10 p.m. Friday, a sergeant noticed a person police had identified as Parker in the area of the Christian Pentecostal Church at 1190 West Main St., the warrant says. She struggled with him and other officers when they tried to take her into custody, and she was charged with interfering with an officer.

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5238 would expand the fund to include victims of child abuse and neglect substantiated by the Department of Children and Families. “What this simply would do is help those children who have high deductible health plans or no health coverage,” Linehan said. “It would essential get them the counseling that they need.”

Establishing a ‘Children’s Mental Health Day’

A bill that would establish a “Children’s Mental Health Day” in Connecticut was passed out of committee last week. Senate Bill No. 205 would designate May 26 as an annual “Get Outside and Play for Children’s Mental Health Day,” in order to raise awareness of children’s mental health and wellness. During a public hearing earlier this month, Department of Children and Families commissioner Vanessa Dorantes argued that the Children’s Mental Health Day would “cement the importance of children’s mental health care beyond the pandemic,” though she recommended that the legislation be expanded to encompass a “Children’s Mental Health Month.”

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CONNECTICUT

SOUTHINGTON

Council decides against raising Ukrainian flag

Republican majority rejects plan to raise it on municipal property, citing ordinance

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Democrats on Southington’s town council want to raise the Ukrainian flag over the municipal center, but the Republican majority — citing a proposed ordinance against any non-U.S. flags — turned down the idea.

The council last month took up a proposal to allow raising only four official flags over town property as a way to avoid lawsuits and divisive debates.

At the council meeting this week, Republican Councilor Willian Dziedzic cautioned that Southington might be asked, for instance, to raise a Russian flag if it were to put up a Ukrainian one.

Speakers from Southington Pride, however, told councilors that the town shouldn’t block

non-governmental flags flying over municipal property. Some suggested the GOP caucus was mostly interested in keeping the Pride flag from going up this summer.

“I think most people see what’s truly going on,” resident Walter Grover told the council at a meeting Monday night. “This has nothing to do with ‘What if they want to raise the Russian flag?’ It really has to do with appeasing a small minority group who oppose having our Pride flag raised.”

Permitting only the American, Connecticut, Southington and POW-MIA flags would head off controversy about which causes, countries or religions would be represented in the future, Republican councilors said.

Dziedzic and others have warned that the town could be in

the middle of debate — and potentially litigation — if it allows some outside flags but refuses others.

The city of Boston is the defendant in a Supreme Court case in which a religious organization claims it was wrongly denied permission to fly the Christian flag in front of city hall.

The city’s argument is that the Bill of Rights bars government from promoting any religion. The Camp Constitution organization, however, says Boston approved scores of other non-governmental flags — and discriminated against it by rejecting the Christian one.

Southington’s council last month referred the matter to a committee, and plans to hold a public hearing on whether the town should officially refuse to fly any flags from outside groups, nations or interests. Protestors or others could still carry those flags on city property, but the town itself would not be participating.

Republican Council Tom Lombardi said he supports the message of flying a Ukrainian flag, but doesn’t want the town manager put in the position of rejecting requests from some organizations while accepting others.

Democratic councilors and Pride speakers, however, countered that the town has temporarily flown non-official flags over the course of many years. Former Town Manager John Weichsel, for instance, raised the Greek flag at Town Hall every year on Green Independence Day.

Homeowner Thomas Catricala said the council majority should have gone along with the Ukrainian flag proposal as a show of unity.

“This is a simple action that shows what we stand for — it’s been mucked up by unnecessary government red tape,” he said. “They don’t want to show support to another community, the LGBTQ

community.”

Catricala and others said social media lit up with anti-gay posts after the town raised the Pride flag last summer.

“As disgusting as those comments are, it’s a vocal minority and nothing more than that. It doesn’t represent what most of Southington believes,” he said. “Let’s not go backwards.”

Alissa Nelson called on the council to reconsider.

“It’s so much bigger than flying a flag, I get that. Having it flown last year and having it be a point of contention this year — it makes us feel unheard, unsupported,” Nelson said. “I understand it is being politicized but being gay isn’t a political issue.”

By a 6-3 party-line vote, the council declined to take up the Ukrainian flag proposal. Chairwoman Victoria Triano emphasized that the council would conduct a hearing before adopting any flag ordinance.

State warns fans not to wager with illegal sites

Offshore platforms put sports bettors at risk, officials caution

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

As March Madness betting gets underway, state officials are warning sports fans to avoid illegal internet gaming sites.

Consumer protection officials and the state’s attorney general said they have received reports of illegal offshore gambling businesses getting Connecticut consumers to place wagers through their online platforms. The illegal websites are not licensed to accept wagers in the state and create a risk for those who may not realize they don’t comply with state rules protecting consumers’ personal information and money.

“These illegal offshore gambling websites are highly professional organizations with large budgets, and often they market directly to Connecticut consumers using endorsements from retired famous professional athletes,” said Michelle H. Seagull, commissioner of the state Department of Consumer Protection. “But these platforms are illegal and not subject to regulation and inspection by the state. That means the games haven’t been reviewed to ensure they are run fairly, and consumers are putting their personal information and money at risk by using these platforms.”

“There are three sports betting operators authorized to operate in Connecticut — DraftKings, FanDuel and Play Sugarhouse,” Attorney General William Tong said. “Any other gaming platform marketing to Connecticut consumers is doing so in violation of state law and should be reported to the Department of Consumer Protection.”

The illegal offshore gambling websites often call potential patrons directly and use high pressure sales tactics to get them to make a deposit and place wagers, the officials said. They tell patrons it is legal to place a bet on these sites from Connecticut when it is not, and there is no guarantee that consumers who place wagers on these platforms will receive their winnings.

To avoid detection, these sites often use third-party vendors to hide the payments from a patron’s bank, which is obligated to stop financial transactions involving illegal gambling operations.

Anyone who is aware of illegal gambling businesses marketing their services in Connecticut should report it by emailing dcp.gaming@ct.gov.

General information about gaming in Connecticut is available at ct.gov/gaming, and information about services for those in Connecticut who may have a problem with gambling is available at portal.ct.gov/problemgaming.

Gamblers also may learn about self-exclusion at ct.gov/selfexclusion.

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G-Monkey bringing vegan fast food to West Hartford

Restaurant to combine best of Branford’s G-Zen with quick, casual fare

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

G-Zen, the acclaimed vegan restaurant in Branford, will close April 30, and the restaurant’s founders will open G-Monkey Plant-Fueled Fast Food in West Hartford in the summer, according to the co-owner.

Ami Beach, who owns G-Zen with her husband, chef Mark Shadle, said the G-Monkey Mobile food truck that started the couple’s restaurant venture in 2009 will remain active. Beach said G-Monkey Plant-Fueled Fast Food, which will be at 625 New Park Ave., will be “the best of both models.”

“It will have the elegant, hand-crafted food that G-Zen is known for, and the quick and casual concept that became very popular with our food truck,” she said. “It’s an evolution of our brand. It will be a plant-forward flagship location that will serve as a pilot for franchising.”

Beach said franchising possibilities are still in the planning stages, but probably will begin in-state before expanding to other states.

“Our ultimate goal is to normalize vegan food and make it more approachable and accessible to the masses, in the same way fast-food chains make it easy to dine there,” Beach said. “But we are flipping the script on unhealthy fast food and making it sustainable, made from real ingredients and heart-healthy food.”

At G-Monkey Plant-Fueled Fast Food, Shadle will prepare fast casual-friendly dishes that were among the most popular offerings at G-Zen, including vegan Caesar salad, avocado toast, coconut maple bacon, black bean and brown rice burrito, Zen Buddha bowls, hand-cut sweet potato fries, chili-cheese fries, Feisty Monkey wild peanut cilantro soba noodles, raw tacos and grilled tempeh reubens.

“As a vegan chef for more than 30 years, I am thrilled to bring my organic and wholesome tried-and-true creations and adapt them in a modern, fast-food concept,” Shadle said.

Beach said the evolution was inspired by the difficulties of



The “Downward Dog” rice and bean burrito with fries is one of the popular items at G-Zen in Branford that will be coming to G-Monkey Plant-Fueled Fast Food in West Hartford. **AMI BEACH/COURTESY**

pandemic.

“We never closed [G-Zen] during pandemic. We never laid off one person. We proceeded without any issues. However, with the rising cost of labor, organic produce, the whole supply-chain issue thing, the business model at G-Zen no longer was seeming sustainable,” she said.

“We took a hard look at the next 10 years. We saw the writing on the wall for our business model. We want to attract more vegans and make it more approachable, quicker, easier. The way for us to do that is shifting concepts and

evolving it. The location we were at at G-Zen is not set up for fast food service business.”

G-Monkey Plant-Fueled Fast Food will be in the location that once housed Hartford Baking Company, then Citizen Chicken and Donuts. It will open some time after Memorial Day, Beach said. Those who have G-Zen gift cards can redeem them at G-Zen until April 30 or at G-Monkey Plant-Fueled Fast Food after it opens.

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Rocky Hill mourns death of fire captain

Governor orders flags lowered to half-staff for James Lamarre

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

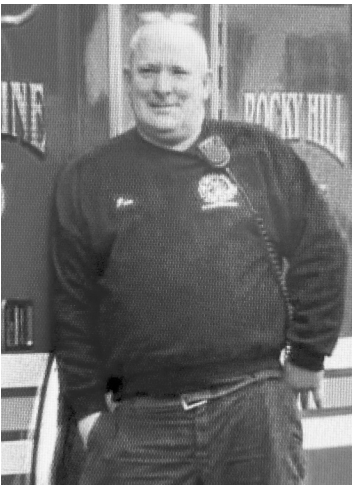
A fire captain and fixture in the Rocky Hill Fire Department for more than a quarter of a century has died, fire officials said.

Capt. James Lamarre, 61, died at home March 8.

“For the past several months, Capt. Lamarre has been courageously battling work-related cancer,” Fire Chief Michael P. Garrahy said. “Capt. Lamarre honorably served the department for 27 years in many roles, including that of career apparatus mechanic.”

Gov. Ned Lamont said Tuesday that he directed U.S. and state flags in Connecticut lowered to half-staff from sunrise to sunset on Friday, March 18, 2022, in honor of Lamarre. Lamont also said in a release that Lamarre “died in the line of duty as a result of work-related cancer.”

“Captain Lamarre’s passing is a terrible reminder of the dangers firefighters face throughout their careers in the name of public service and the protection



Rocky Hill Fire Capt. James Lamarre died March 8. **ROCKY HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT/COURTESY**

of others,” Lamont said in the statement. “First responders like Captain Lamarre embody the best of our state and our country. On behalf of the State of Connecticut, I send my condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues in the Rocky Hill Fire Department and Benino-Beck VFW Post 2138. I ask the residents of our state to keep him and his family in your prayers.”

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz said, also in a statement, that “Captain

Lamarre exemplifies what it means to be a true public servant, dedicating his life to keeping others safe,

“His service will not be forgotten, and his legacy will live on through the lives of those he touched and the lives of those he saved. My most sincere condolences go to Captain Lamarre’s family, friends, the Rocky Hill Fire Department, and Benino-Beck VFW Post 2138,” she said.

Connecticut State Fire Administrator Jeffrey Morrisette said the state’s fire service extends “heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the Lamarre’s family, as well as to his extended fire service family in Rocky Hill and throughout the region.”

A lifetime Rocky Hill resident and graduate of Rocky Hill High School, Lamarre enlisted in the Army and was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, where he was a sharpshooter and trained as a diesel mechanic, his obituary said.

The training helped him when he returned to Rocky Hill: He became a mechanic at Nutmeg International in Hartford for many years before joining the town of Rocky Hill as a mechanic, the obit said.

“Jim had a stellar work ethic, was known for his meticulous attention to detail, and took great

pride in anything he was involved in,” it said.

He was a longtime member of the Benino-Beck VFW Post 2138 in Rocky Hill, where he also served as chaplain, and was a member of the Middlesex County Dart Association and the Connecticut Triumph Club, the obituary said.

He loved telling stories and his “boisterous laugh was infectious,” it said. “Jim was a family man — a loving husband and proud father to his stepchildren, and a proud grandfather to his grandson.”

Friends and family may call on the Lamarre family from 4-7 p.m. Thursday at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 34 Beaver Road, Wethersfield. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at Saint James Church of Saint Josephine Bahkita Parish, 767 Elm St., Rocky Hill, followed by a burial with full military and fire department honors at the Rocky Hill Center Cemetery, Main Street, Rocky Hill, according to the obit.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center. Condolences may be left at FarleySullivan.com, the obit said.

Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

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VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

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Residents, commuters, business owners, and other interested individuals are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed project.

Please join us on Wednesday, March 23, 2022

The meeting will be live streamed via: Microsoft Teams Live Event and YouTube Live

Formal Presentation will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Question and Answer (Q&A) session will immediately follow the presentation.

Instructions on how to access the meeting and on how to provide comments or ask questions, can be found at the project webpage: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOTEssex172-512>

The public informational meeting is being held to provide the public and local community the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions regarding the proposed project. Persons with limited internet access may request that project information be mailed to them by contacting Ms. Natasha Fatu by email at TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov or by phone at (860) 594-2731. (Allow one week for processing and delivery.)

Individuals with limited internet access can listen to the meeting by calling (888) 566-5916 and entering the Participant Code when prompted: 9977843. Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). The MS Teams Live Event offers closed-captioning for the hearing impaired and non-English translation options. A recording of the formal presentation will be posted to YouTube following the event and closed-captioning (including non-English translation options) will be available at that time. The recording will also be available in the list of DOT virtual public meetings here: <https://portal.ct.gov/dot/general/CTDOT-VPIM-Library>


Visit the project webpage for options for Apple users. During the Q&A session and the 14-day comment period that follows the meeting, individuals may leave a question or comment via email (preferred) at DOTProject172-512Essex@ct.gov. Individuals may also leave a voicemail question or comment by calling (860) 944-1111. Please reference the project in your voicemail.

Language assistance may be requested by contacting the Department's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least 5 business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Mary C. Schroeder, Late of Lyme, AKA Mary Caldwell Schroeder (22-0037)

The Hon. Peter C. Barrett, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated February 18, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is: Deborah Penny James c/o WILLIAM CAMPBELL HUDSON, HUDSON KILBY AND MCCAULEY, LLC, 10 BOKUM ROAD, RD. BOX 398, ESSEX, CT 06426

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:

190 Old Farms Road, Avon, CT 06001-860-598-4899. April 6th 2022@ 12:30 PM.

Alice Lund - Unit 241 - Metal ladder, wooden clothes trunk , boxes, empty plastic totes, chairs, small kitchen wooden table.

Zhenghao Sun - Unit 12028 - Sports bag, shoe box, filled bags , other sports equipment/ items

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storageasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. 3/16, 3/30/2022 7166067

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids, will be accepted by the City of Middletown for **BID # 2022-008 Veterans Memorial Park & Pool Improvements**, and will be received until **Thursday, April 21, 2022 by 11:00 am**. Bid Proposals shall be addressed to the Supervisor of Purchases, City of Middletown, Room 112, Municipal Building, Middletown, Connecticut. Late bids will not be accepted


BID #2022-008 VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK & POOL IMPROVEMENTS PUBLIC WORKS – ECONOMIC & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The City of Middletown is pursuing approximately 4 acres of park improvements within Veterans Memorial Park, located at 200 Walnut Grove Road. The project includes a new outdoor public pool with surrounding pool deck, completely renovated bathroom with separate building addition, water feature spray ground, public plazas, parking, sidewalks, site walls and stairs, associated site utility improvements, site amenities, and landscaping.

A bid bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid amount shall be required with all bids submitted. Performance and Labor and Materials Payment Bond(s) in the amount of 100% of the contract sum shall be required from the selected bidder following award. A Maintenance Bond in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the contract sum shall be required after completion of work and prior to final payment.

****Please note - Due to the COVID 19 virus, the following procedures applies:**


- A pre-bid conference will be held on **Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 10:00 am** at site, 200 Walnut Grove Road, Middletown, CT, following all CDC recommendations. Interested bidders that do not follow these recommendations will be asked to leave. Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting in person or by representative.
- Plans and Specifications will not be available for pick up; they will be available and can only be obtained from our website at www.middletownct.gov. If you download a set of plans/specifications and would like to be listed on our "Plan holder's List" which is posted to our website daily, we ask that you email and include your contact information to purchase@middletownct.gov.
- Bids will not be publicly opened in the Municipal Building, however, bids will be opened and read aloud via WebEx. Additional information and a link will be provided on our website for those interested in viewing the bid opening via WebEx.
- All bids shall be submitted in duplicate on the designated forms using the Bid Return Label provided as designated in the Information for Bidders by the date set and time.


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MARGEAUX WALTER/
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Pregnancy in the workplace

Remote work allows moms-to-be to go through the experience more like expectant dads might

By Sarah Kessler
The New York Times

For the past nine months, I have been pregnant. But I have not, for the most part, been pregnant at work.

In the beginning, when I felt nauseous, I threw up in my own bathroom. Saltine crackers became a constant companion but remained out of view of my Zoom camera. A couple of months later, I switched from jeans to leggings without any comment from my co-workers.

And as my baby grew from the size of a lemon to a grapefruit to a cantaloupe, the box through which my colleagues see me on video calls cropped out my basketball-size gut.

Outside the virtual office, an airport security screener scolded me for trying to pick up a suitcase, cashiers became extra nice, and strangers informed me of how big or small or wide or high my belly was.

But when I logged on to work remotely each morning, all mentions of my ballooning body and imminent life change abruptly stopped. Instead, I focused on, talked about and was asked about work.

I didn't intentionally hide my pregnancy from a majority of my colleagues. It just didn't often come up. Which, I imagine, is how things often work for expectant fathers.

For parents-to-be whose bodies don't broadcast the pregnancy, it's possible to share news of an arriving child with close colleagues but omit it at meetings.

They can inform their bosses about their intentions to take parental leave months before telling co-workers who won't be affected; they can casually mention at the end of happy hour that their baby is due in a week or give a presentation to a large group without first disclosing that they've chosen to expand their family. My husband told the team he manages that he would be taking parental leave at a weekly meeting during my second trimester.

If you're the one who is pregnant, at a certain point you don't have those options.

But that's not the case with remote workers, a category that expanded to include more than 42% of employed Americans during the early days of the pandemic, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Many pregnant women cannot work remotely, and those who do tend to feel lucky. Not going into a physical office means getting to skip a lot of awkward small talk ("So, will you be breastfeeding?") and unexpected belly rubs.

It also means a chance to avoid a certain kind of seemingly well-intentioned but unwanted

help from colleagues, like preemptively lightened workloads, that can make women feel suddenly less capable. This behavior is known as "benevolent sexism" in academic literature.

There isn't a lot of incentive to awkwardly insert a pregnancy announcement into a work conference call. And research suggests that pregnant women tend to be seen as less competent, more needing of accommodation and less committed to work as compared with women who don't have children, said Eden King, a professor of psychology at Rice University who studies how pregnancy affects women in the workplace.

Similar stereotypes affect mothers — 63% of them are working while their youngest child is under 3, according to the Labor Department — but pregnancy is a more visible identity, King said. "It can be a very physical characteristic in a way that motherhood isn't," she said. "So some of those experiences and expectations may be exacerbated."

In interviews with 10 pregnant or recently pregnant remote workers for this article, several women said that being visibly pregnant in real life but not on a work Zoom screen helped them feel more confident and less apprehensive about what parenthood might mean for their career. Christine

Glandorf, who works in education technology and is due with her first child this month, said that like many professionals on the brink of parenthood, she worried that people's expectations of her in the workplace could change. Remote work solves part of that equation.

"It's nice that it's literally not in people's face in any way, shape or form unless I choose for it to be a part of the conversation," she said.

In a study published in the journal *Personnel Psychology* in 2020, King and her colleagues asked more than 100 pregnant women in a variety of industries to track how much their supervisors, without having been asked for help, did things like assign them less work so they wouldn't be overwhelmed and protect them from unpleasant news.

Women who received more unwanted help reported feeling less capable at work, and they were more likely to want to quit nine months postpartum.

"The more you experienced those seemingly positive but actually benevolently sexist behaviors, the less you believed in yourself," King said.

The virtual office may be relatively new, but women have long thought about how to shape their colleagues' perception of their pregnancies. In a 2015 study conducted by Little, researchers interviewed 35

women about their experience being pregnant at work.

Most women, about 80%, brought up strategies such as hiding their bellies, working extra hard to prove they were dedicated or avoiding discussing their pregnancies. In most cases their goal was to be viewed as "the same" as before they were pregnant.

What has changed with the virtual office is that downplaying pregnancy is easier for longer, and women have more control over when they inform their employers.

Ashlie Thomas decided not to mention that she was about 20 weeks pregnant while interviewing for a remote customer assistance job at a software company. "If they decided not to hire me, I didn't want it to be based on my pregnancy," she said.

After she got the job, Thomas waited until she was about seven months pregnant to tell her employer she would be taking leave and planned to tell her team a week before her delivery date. The late announcement, she said, would allow her to feel that, "I've demonstrated that I can do this job, and I'm capable, and now I'm comfortable sharing this with you." But she never made it to the meeting where she planned to share her news. That morning, she gave birth to her son.

Not all women who have

kept their pregnancies out of their video conference calls say they are afraid of discrimination. Some of the women I spoke with for this article felt that the news was too private to share widely or that they didn't want to exacerbate their own anxiety about potentially losing the pregnancy.

Giving a growing bump less visibility can't compensate for an unsupportive organization. Still, most of the women I interviewed agreed there was something nice about having the option to act more like expectant fathers when discussing their pregnancies at work. When I finally started to roll out my news to some colleagues during my third trimester, I enjoyed occasionally acknowledging my major life change during the work day, especially when it was kicking me in the ribs. At the same time, I was happy to have a choice when it came to how and when to bring it up.

As companies summon people back to the office, fewer people will have that choice. But there is part of the remote work pregnancy experience that can be replicated offline, King said.

"Some women do need help, and some women do want accommodations," she said. But "you have to ask women what they want and what they need and not assume that we know."

EX-ETIQUETTE

Avoid using accusatory words with co-parent

By Jann Blackstone
Tribune News Service

Q: When my children's mother and I broke up four years ago, we made a pact that we would never go back to court. But as time went on, it got more difficult to discuss things rationally. I know I should reach out to her when we have something to discuss, but it always escalates to a fight. So I avoid it, which

just makes things worse. Then I hear about how she can't trust me because we said we'd never go back to court. What's good ex-etiquette?

A: If you want to problem-solve, not win or put your co-parent in their place, staying respectful will go a long way. That means stay away from accusatory words — they will always take the conversation in another direction.

Words like "liar," "lying," "you always," "you never," or name-calling, all these put the other party on the defense and will accelerate a discussion into an argument, not about the subject you want to discuss, but what was said during the argument. You truly will get lost in a black hole of defensiveness and misunderstanding.

Now, let's address the other half of your question,

using the courts to solve your problems.

Most co-parents hate going to court. They feel that if "court" intercedes, their power to decide is removed — and they are right. However, I can tell you from experience, the courts don't want to raise your children. They want you to co-parent and make decisions together. If you can't, the court is there, but it's a last resort. Someone



TERO VESALAINEN/DREAMSTIME

who doesn't know you or your children will decide what is best for your family.

At this point, if you both can't turn your approach to discussing something around, I'd suggest co-par-

enting counseling to help you personalize a positive blueprint for problem-solving — always based on what's best for your children. That's good ex-etiquette.

CELEBRITIES

Eilish among Grammy performers

From news services

The Grammy Awards are bringing three of the world’s biggest pop acts — Olivia Rodrigo, BTS and Billie Eilish — to perform during next month’s ceremony in Las Vegas.

The Recording Academy announced the first slate of performers on Tuesday that also includes Brandi Carlile, Brothers Osborne and Lil Nas X with Jack Harlow. The show will air live April 3 on CBS and Paramount+.

The Grammys shifted to Las Vegas due to the rising COVID-19 cases and the omicron variant in January, with organizers citing “too many risks” to hosting the ceremony in Los Angeles at the time.

Trevor Noah returns as host for the second time.

Jon Batiste is the leading nominee with 11 nods. Justin Bieber, Doja Cat and H.E.R. are tied for the second most nominations with eight each.

Report provides details on Saget’s death: Fractures around Bob Saget’s eye sockets and bleeding around his brain were possibly caused by the comedian hitting “something hard, covered by something soft,” such as a carpeted floor, according to a report released Tuesday that provides more details of the comedian and TV star’s death.

In the incident report released by the Orange County Sheriff’s Office in Orlando, Florida, a detective notes that Medical Examiner Joshua Stephany said the fractures “would have stunned Mr. Saget,” and that he would have experienced dizziness. It does not pinpoint a location for Saget’s fall.

The 65-year-old entertainer was found by a hotel security officer on his hotel bed at the Ritz Carlton in Orlando on Jan. 9. The medical exam-



Billie Eilish, who is seen on March 1, will perform during the Grammy Awards on April 3. VALERIE MACON/GETTY-AFP

iner concluded after the autopsy in January that Saget died from an accidental blow to the head, likely from a backward fall. Investigators found no evidence of struggle, foul play or signs that anyone else had been in Saget’s suite during his stay. A toxicology analysis didn’t show any illicit drugs or toxins in Saget’s body.

There were no signs of blood on the hotel bed’s sheets or bedspread, according to the report released Tuesday.

An initial examination of Saget’s body in the hotel showed that he had slight swelling and small bruises in the corner of his left eye.

A Florida judge on Monday agreed to make permanent an order that prohibits the release of photos, video or other records related to the investigation into Saget’s death. His family had filed a lawsuit seeking the order.

Melvin steps away from MSNBC: NBC News anchor Craig Melvin is stepping back from MSNBC, where he presents a daily hour of news in the morning.

An MSNBC representative confirmed Monday

that Melvin will give up the 11 a.m. Eastern hour on the cable news channel March 31. He remains as the news anchor of NBC’s “Today” and co-host of the program’s third hour. He also hosts the syndicated version of NBC’s true crime news magazine “Dateline.” Melvin has performed double duty as an anchor for MSNBC and “Today” since 2016.

Obama to narrate docu-series: Former president Barack Obama will executive produce and narrate a “breath-taking” five-part nature series called “Our Great National Parks,” which “invites viewers to experience nature in the world’s most iconic national parks,” Netflix announced Tuesday. The series will debut April 13.

March 16 birthdays: TV host Chuck Woolery is 81. Actor Erik Estrada is 73. Actor Victor Garber is 73. Guitarist Nancy Wilson is 68. Rapper Flavor Flav is 63. Actor Lauren Graham is 55. Actor Alan Tudyk is 51. Actor Tim Kang is 49. Actor Brooke Burns is 44. Singer Jhene Aiko is 34. Musician Wolfgang Van Halen is 31.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson
askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Height challenges pose problem for teacher

Dear Readers: Every year I step away from my column for two weeks to work on other creative projects. I hope you enjoy these “Best of” columns from 10 years ago. Today’s topic: “height challenges.”

Dear Amy: I am petite. While it would be great to be a foot taller, I have accepted that it isn’t going to happen.

I am a middle-school teacher. Students often comment on my stature because many of them are taller than I am.

I know how to respond to a student, but I’m at a loss on how to respond to my co-workers, many of whom I do not know well.

Several times a year, someone will tap me on the shoulder to tell me that he thought I was a student. I realize it’s natural for people to think things like this, but I think it’s rude to share that thought.

I can take a good-natured joke from someone I am good friends with, but when an acquaintance or total stranger says this to me, it is bothersome.

Some of them even ask for my height, which I think is as rude as asking someone their weight. I don’t know how to reply. — *Petite*

Dear Petite: I agree that your colleagues should not behave like schoolchildren. It is not appropriate to comment on people’s bodies. However, your views are immaterial when it comes to tolerating a reaction brought on by a condition you cannot change.

Silently nodding might convey a fairly neutral reaction that also says,

“Yep. Here we are. Again.” When someone outright asks your height, the quickest way out is to simply tell them, without starting a conversation. You will make more progress in retraining yourself — rather than educating other people to behave differently.

Dear Amy: I had a petite teacher who was also very attractive. She would usually answer questions about her height by using a line from a routine by Groucho Marx: “I am well over 4 feet!” — *Jim*

Dear Jim: I will be using this line frequently myself, now. Thank you.

Dear Amy: I am petite and was also a middle-school teacher. I watched my students start off shorter than I was and grow taller. When they came back to school after the summer, they always commented on how “short I had become.” It was a reason to joke, and I enjoyed it. — *Also Petite*

Dear Petite: Your willingness to be a good-humored human yardstick for your students tells me you were in the right profession.

Dear Amy: A few months ago, I started talking to a woman I met through a mutual friend of ours. I’m 24, and she’s 22. We really hit it off. What was a casual friendship seems to be heading in another direction. The only thing is that she’s 6 feet tall, and I’m 5-foot-8. This isn’t an issue for me, but it concerns her. She talks about how

she wants to get past it, but it’s stuck in her head. Any advice on how I could help? — *Too Short Guy*

Dear Guy: Do nothing. It is her issue to get over, and she either will — or she won’t. You cannot and should not do anything differently. I will tell you this: True love knows no height. The day may come when she realizes she stopped noticing how tall she is. It would be nice if you were standing next to her then.

Dear Amy: I’m a 5-foot-9-inch woman, and it amazes me to hear how many people have a thing about height: The guy always “has” to be taller.

I’ve had my fill over the years of men who didn’t want me to wear heels, wanted me to hunch a bit while walking, etc., and for every insecure short man, there seems to be three women who are just as stubborn.

My husband is 5-feet-5, and I couldn’t love him more. It takes a confident, secure man to proudly hold a taller woman on his arm. He might be short, but he has a huge heart. — *BJW*

Dear BJW: Legendary chef Julia Child was 6 feet, 2 inches tall. Her devoted husband, Paul, was a more average height: 5 feet, 9 inches. I have heard from many such “mismatched” couples who report that they are perfectly happy.

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Renee Zellweger’s obsession with Pam Hupp saga led to NBC series

By Daniel Neman
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Renee Zellweger’s dog needed a new hip.

The vet who was going to perform the procedure was in San Francisco, and it’s a long drive on Interstate 5 from the Los Angeles area. Back and forth along the way, Zellweger binged the “Dateline” podcast “The Thing About Pam,” which delves into the story of convicted murderer Pamela Hupp.

“This was one of those stories that you couldn’t make up ... I couldn’t believe it. It was an experience of escalating absurdities,” Zellweger said on a call promoting a six-part NBC miniseries based on the story, also titled “The Thing About Pam” and now airing Tuesdays.

Zellweger thought the byzantine tale of the Troy, Missouri, killer might make great television. The idea made its way to Blumhouse Productions.

“When a two-time Oscar winner calls and says, ‘I’m obsessed with this story, and I want to play Pam, and I want to produce,’ you say, ‘Yes, yes, yes and yes,’” Blumhouse president Chris McCumber said on the call.

Zellweger stars as Hupp, a central figure in at least two murders. In 2011, her friend Betsy Faria was found stabbed to death; Faria’s husband, Russell, was arrested and convicted of the killing. But he was exonerated in a 2015 trial that included evidence potentially pointing to Hupp as the killer. She was charged with the murder in 2021.

Meanwhile, Hupp was convicted of murdering Louis Gumpenberger in 2016 in a failed plot to frame Russell Faria for his wife’s death. Hupp’s mother also died in 2013 under suspicious circumstances, though the cause of that death is considered



Renee Zellweger attends a red carpet event for “The Thing About Pam” Feb. 28 in California. MATT WINKELMEYER/GETTY

“undetermined” and is not classified as a homicide.

The story was covered extensively both locally and nationally, including by NBC’s “Dateline.”

“I can’t believe this hasn’t happened earlier,” said Josh Duhamel, who plays Faria’s attorney, Joel Schwartz. “I’ve been a ‘Dateline’ fan for as far back as this started, and I just remember going, ‘God, that would make a great movie; that would make a great TV show.’”

For the script, the creators mined thousands of pages of trial transcripts, news stories and interviews, and also talked with many people involved in the cases. The miniseries is dramatized, so some of the scenes are fictional, but the creators wanted the series to feel true to life.

Much of the focus has been on Zellweger’s physical transformation to resemble Hupp. The actor was fitted with a fat suit and wore extensive prosthetics and wigs.

“That’s part of my toolkit that makes it easier to achieve what it is that you’re trying to (do), in terms of telling someone else’s story,” Zellweger said. “The further you are from yourself, the safer you feel to explore.”

For Zellweger, who’d had only limited experience with prosthetics, it was a chance to learn how they are made, how they fit together, and what they can and cannot do.

“They have minds of their own, and what they become during the day isn’t quite what they begin as in the morning,” she said.

She also discovered that acting with her body completely encased in prosthetics was “a skill I didn’t have. So every day, it was learning.”

Zellweger also made a vocal transformation. She wanted to sound like Hupp. “The accent — boy, that was elusive,” she said. “I was listening to accents from the regions that she had grown up in and where she lived, and boy, it was peculiar. It’s very unique to Pam. It’s not regional.”

All the effort — the makeup, the prosthetics, the costumes, the accent — went into making the story seem relatable and true to life, for all of its absurdities.

“You want people to feel — it sounds so simple — but feel heartbroken,” said showrunner and executive producer Jenny Klein. “There’s a family drama at the center of this.”

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Many different voices could be calling your name today. You’re primed to get to work, but your subconscious could make it seem as though there are messages trying to reach you. Try to tap into what they are saying.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): There could be a bit of conflict between you and the people you surround yourself with today, but that conflict doesn’t have to end with something negative. Not everyone may want to follow your program. Compromise is essential to avoid strong-arming anyone into doing your bidding!

Gemini (May 21-June 20): It’s fine to take things at an easy pace today, but not everyone is going to be following the same program as you. It’s tempting to stay in your comfort zone, but you need to progress. Accept that the day can change, but know that there’s no reason you can’t come out on top.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Where you’ve been and where you’re going are certainly not the same place right now. Instead of being fine with the tried and true, look for new ideas and ways of thinking to incorporate into your lifestyle. Changing things up could feel like a new lease on life!

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On March 16, 1521, explorer Ferdinand Magellan reached the Philippines.

In 1945, during World War II, American forces declared they had secured Iwo Jima.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Matters of ownership are up for inspection. Someone might have something to tell you. You’re likely focused on your own gains, but you have to keep other people’s opinions in mind. Conversations can get rather intense under this aspect, so be willing to listen without judgment.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone could decide to push your buttons today! You’re more sensitive than normal. It could provide fodder for someone to tell you some truths. Things don’t have to take a bad turn, as long as you don’t let anyone get under your skin. Hopefully their intentions are good, but if not, then feel free to step back.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There’s a dreamy quality to the day, which is perfectly lovely until your responsibilities come calling. Your routine could bring a few last-minute chores your way when you’d rather just take a nap. Try to tend to any outstanding obligations early — then you can do as you please.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Deciding whether to go along with the group or to fly solo could be difficult at this time. Get together with friends and remind yourself why you adore them. That could get waylaid. If people don’t see things your way, you might choose to break away from the herd!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you don’t currently have solid foundations, it doesn’t matter how much you build throughout the day. You might find there’s an underlying issue to deal with. A family member or roommate could stir up drama, or perhaps some necessary repairs will demand your attention.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You’ve got your eyes set far, far, away today, but you could trip up before you’re able to get there. The moon is giving you a case of wanderlust, showing you all the enticing places that you could go if only you could find a way. Hit the town and you may realize you don’t have to travel at all!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It’s fine to worry about other people now — until it comes at the expense of your own welfare. There is a spotlight shining on your connections and the glue that holds you together. Shore up your own defenses. Take today to go over your finances and make sure they’re working.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Your words could be something of a double-edged sword today, at least where others are concerned. You’re prone to saying whatever you feel like. It could rub someone else the wrong way. If you’re in the mood to burn some bridges, go ahead and speak your mind!

In 1984, William Buckley, the CIA station chief in Beirut, was kidnapped by Hezbollah militants.

In 2014, Crimeans voted to leave Ukraine and join Russia.

In 2020, global stocks plunged again amid coronavirus concerns, with Wall Street seeing a 12% decline, its worst in more than 30 years.

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

5			8		2	1		7
			9	4				
				1				8
	3	5					2	
	9					5	4	
2				9			7	
				8	3			
1		3		7	6			9

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Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

6	9	8	9	7	2	8	7	1
2	1	9	8	8	7	6	9	7
7	7	8	1	6	9	9	8	2
8	7	9	8	2	1	7	6	9
9	8	7	6	9	8	1	2	7
1	2	6	7	9	7	9	8	
8	8	7	9	1	9	2	7	6
9	9	2	7	7	6	8	1	8
7	6	1	2	8	8	7	9	9

BOGGLE



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

I	M	D	A
G	R	A	J
E	E	O	L
L	N	O	C

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www.bogglebrainbusters.com

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE
3 letters = 1 point
4 letters = 2 points
5 letters = 3 points
6 letters = 4 points
7 letters = 6 points
8 letters = 10 points
9+ letters = 15 points

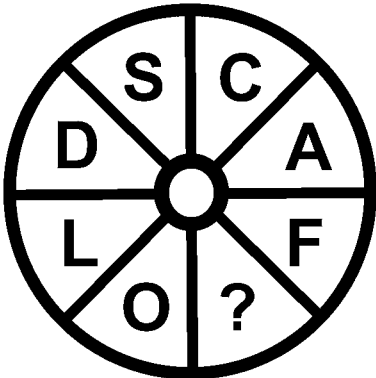
YOUR BOGGLE RATING
151+ = Champ
101-150 = Expert
61-100 = Pro
31-60 = Gamer
21-30 = Rookie
11-20 = Amateur
0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FOUR MILITARY RANKS in the grid of letters.

MAJOR COLONEL GENERAL ADMIRAL

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

SCAFFOLD
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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: Pauls

318

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

L	R	E	N	A	W	C	I	E	V	M	W	R	R	G	W	Y	R
S	L	C	M	C	W	E	S	T	O	N	E	O	A	V	I	E	A
N	H	U	E	G	K	W	D	R	S	F	B	U	R	G	L	L	B
Z	N	T	K	Z	B	B	R	E	F	E	G	P	E	T	L	N	N
I	R	P	O	A	A	I	D	A	S	U	M	U	L	B	I	A	U
G	N	U	O	Y	S	N	H	O	I	M	R	O	L	Y	A	T	D
P	Q	F	S	S	E	S	N	N	U	U	O	Z	Ü	D	M	S	J
K	I	O	E	I	O	N	W	E	S	G	D	N	M	P	S	T	G
L	C	Y	F	F	M	R	T	B	R	R	L	N	D	S	D	O	O
M	E	A	O	X	S	O	V	R	E	E	K	A	H	H	L	O	C
U	A	P	R	Q	U	I	N	I	A	A	V	N	S	A	E	K	I
V	N	S	D	R	Q	O	S	Q	N	C	W	E	T	R	I	E	L
A	A	R	S	U	A	E	R	T	K	O	C	A	R	V	F	Y	L
H	M	E	N	O	R	C	N	E	A	P	I	M	D	E	O	L	A
O	W	G	U	X	N	E	S	A	H	R	S	U	F	Y	C	Y	G
G	E	D	P	D	R	Y	I	N	U	T	K	L	E	E	S	N	A
A	N	O	K	I	E	D	N	A	S	A	S	T	R	A	N	D	X
N	N	R	U	H	R	T	M	M	S	E	N	I	A	L	R	E	V

ANKA	HEYSE	MUNI	STANLEY
CARRACK	HOGAN	NEWMAN	STOOKEY
CÉZANNE	KANTNER	REISER	STRAND
DESMOND	KLEE	REVERE	TAYLOR
DOUGLAS	LUKAS	ROBESON	THEROUX
DUKAS	LYNDE	RODGERS	VERLAINE
DUNBAR	MASSON	SAND	WANER
FORD	MAURIAT	SCOFIELD	WESTON
GALLICO	MCCARTNEY	SHAFFER	WILLIAMS
GAUGUIN	MORRISSEY	SIMON	YOUNG
HARVEY	MÜLLER	SORVINO	

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TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1	2	3	4	5				6	7	8	
9							10	11			
12						13					
14					15						
			16	17	18			19	20	21	22
			23					24			
25	26	27					28	29			
30						31					
32					33						
			34	35				36	37	38	
39	40	41					42	43			
44							45				
46							47				

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/5/17

ACROSS

- "The X-_"
- "_ About You"
- Like Liam Neeson and Pierce Brosnan
- "_ of Two Cities"
- Halle Berry's age
- Merman and Waters
- 180" from WNW
- "One _ Hill"
- "Malcolm _ Middle"
- Cover with a thin layer of gold
- "McHale's _"
- Stench
- "The _ of Wrath"; Henry Fonda movie
- Larry, Moe or Curly Joe
- Actor _ Katz
- _ Network; "Cupcake Wars" channel
- "_ Upon a Time"
- "F _"; Forrester Tucker sitcom
- Ben Savage's role on "Boy Meets World"
- Fleur-de-
- Ms. Lansbury

F	I	L	E	S					M	A	D
I	R	I	S	H				A	T	A	L
F	I	F	T	Y				E	T	H	E
E	S	E				T	R	E	E		
			I	N	T	H	E		G	I	L
			N	A	V	Y			O	D	O
G	R	A	P	E	S			S	T	O	O
O	M	R	I		F	O	O	D			
O	N	C	E		T	R	O	O	P		
			C	O	R	Y			L	I	S
A	N	G	E	L	A			G	R	A	C
H	O	U	S	E		B	A	C	O	N	
A	M	Y				S	P	E	N	D	

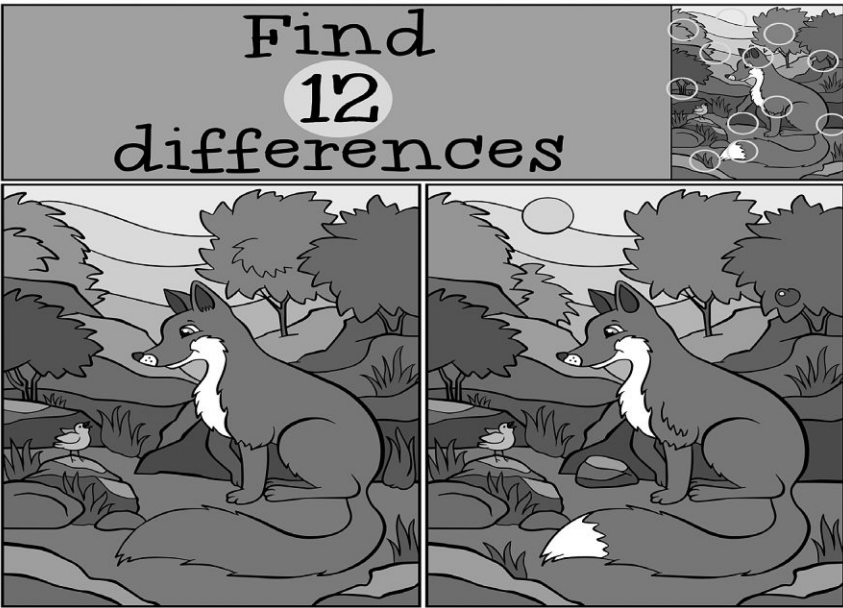
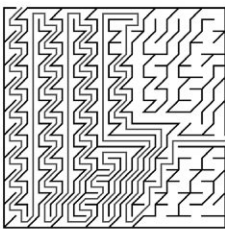
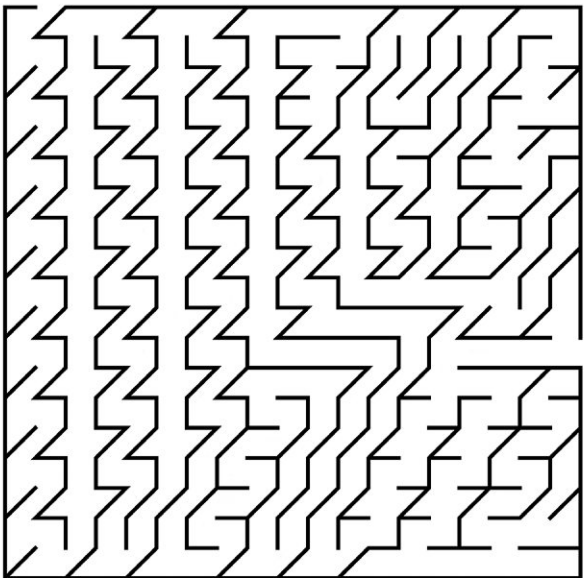
3/12/17

- "Nancy _"; recent HLN series
- "Full _"
- Actor Kevin _
- "Judging _"
- Use up

DOWN

- Barney _; Mayberry resident
- Part of the eye
- Sitcom for Colin Hanks
- Suffix for old, cold or bold
- Bashful
- Actress West
- "_ My Children"
- _ Moines, Iowa
- Dined
- Ted Danson sitcom
- Prior to
- "_ _ _ will be done on earth as it is in heaven..."
- Scotsman's denial
- "_ Bloopers & Practical Jokes"
- "What'll _"; Irving Berlin song
- Cabin wall piece
- Role on "Black-ish"
- Wet sticky stuff
- ...HST, DDE, JFK, LBJ, _...
- "Joan of _"; Ingrid Bergman movie
- Jack _; actor on "Barney Miller"
- "_ Close for Comfort"; Ted Knight sitcom
- Cook in oil
- Refrain syllable
- "Grand _ Opry"
- Piece of Greek Orthodox artwork
- "_ in the Clowns"; Judy Collins song
- _ moment; instant of sudden realization
- _ de plume; pen name
- Actress Jasmine
- Monogram for playwright Shaw
- Ice-T's music

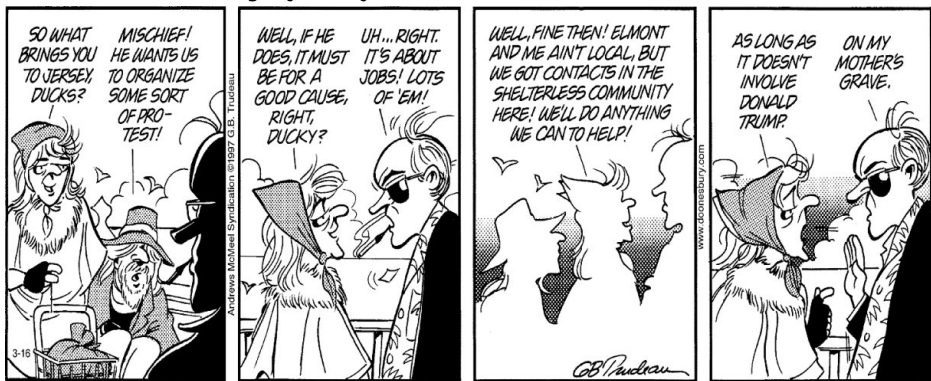
KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



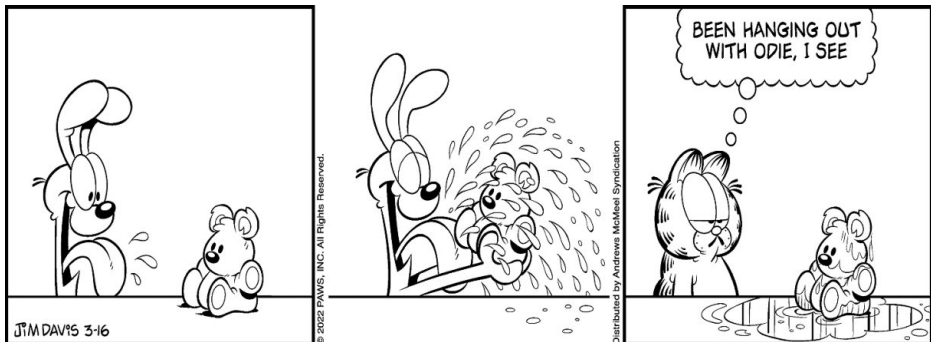
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



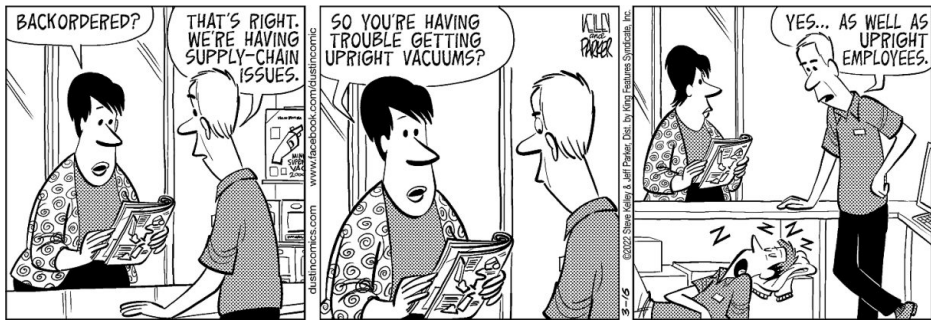
Garfield By Jim Davis



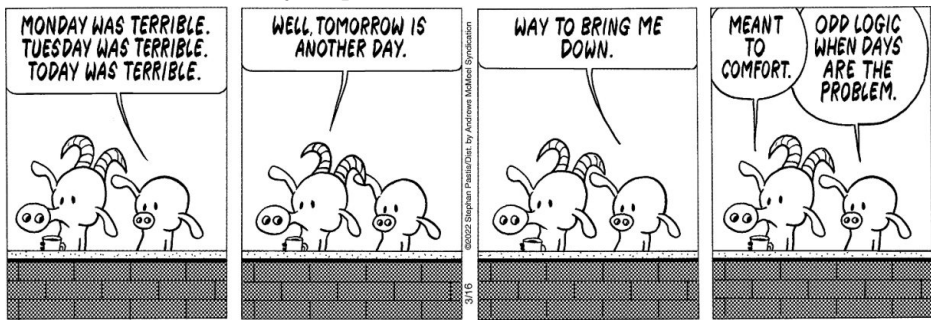
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



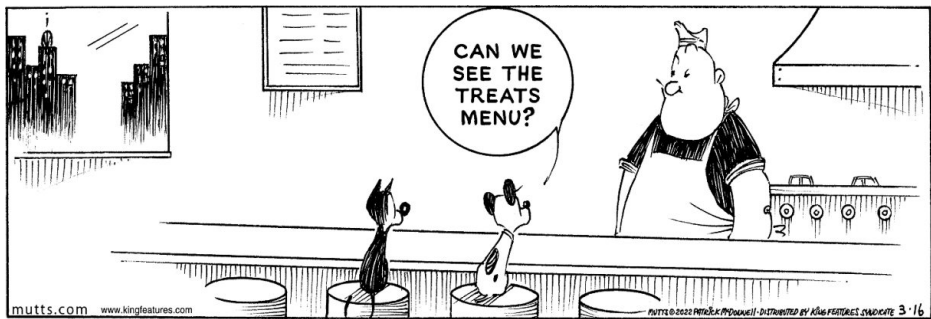
Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



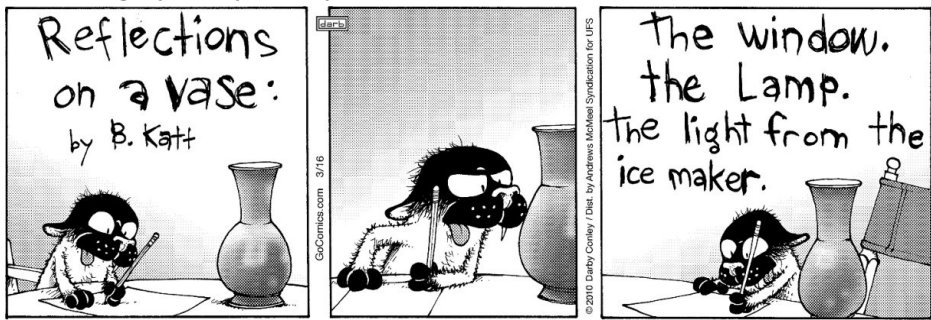
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



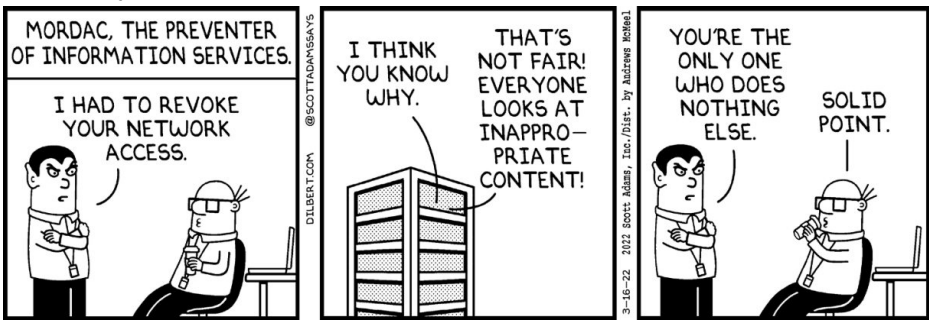
Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



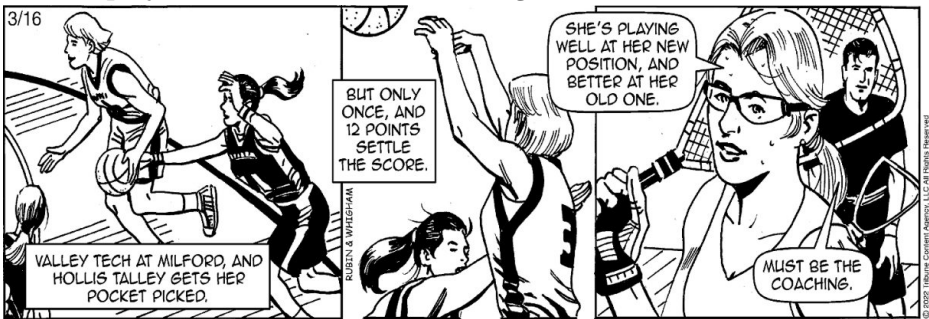
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



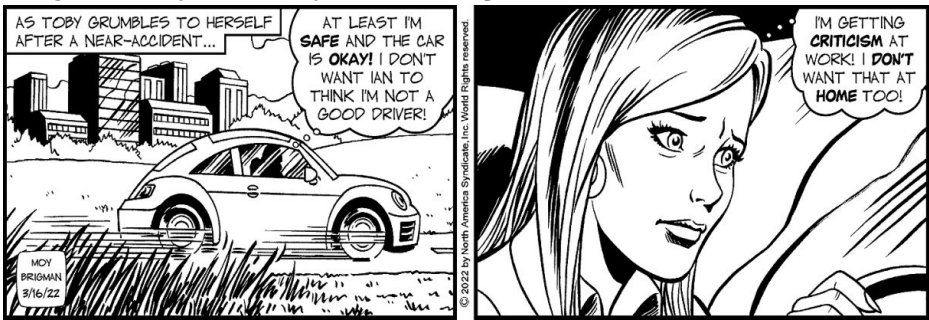
Dilbert By Scott Adams



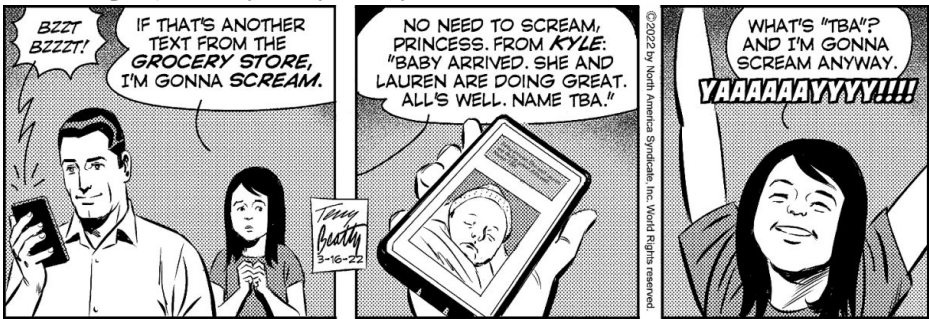
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



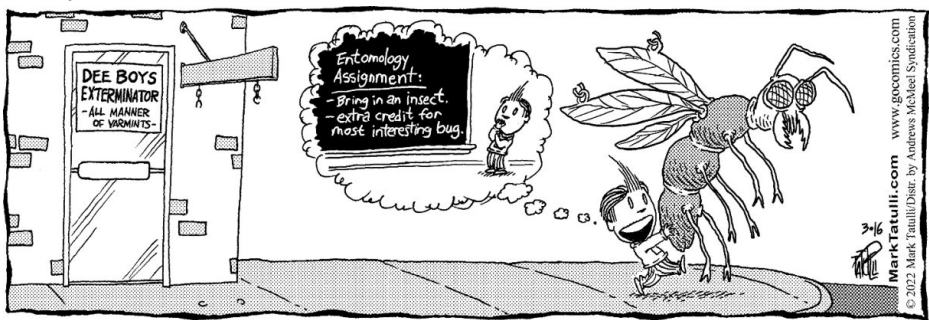
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



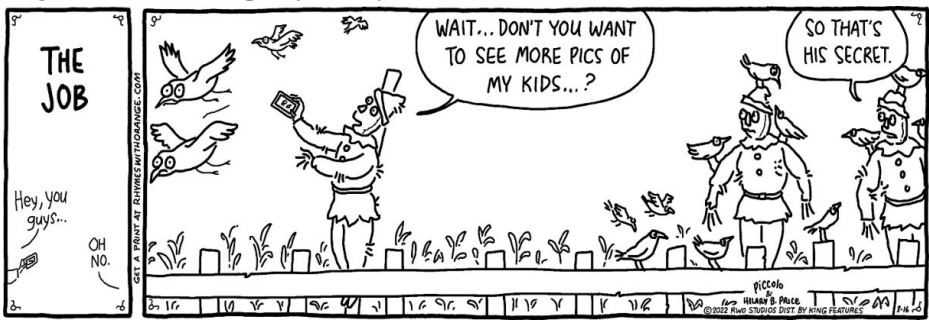
Lio By Mark Tatulli



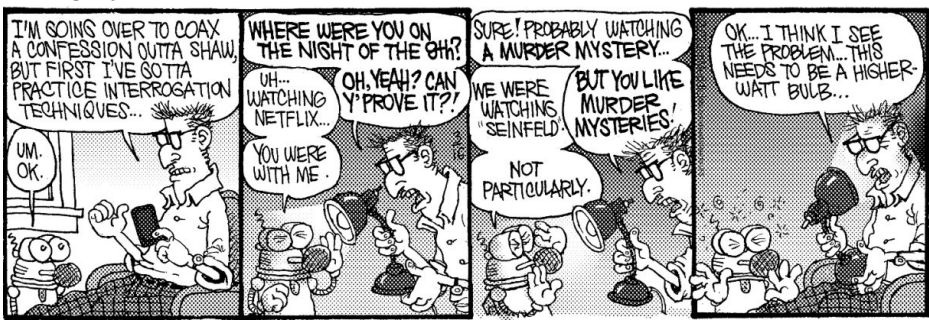
Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



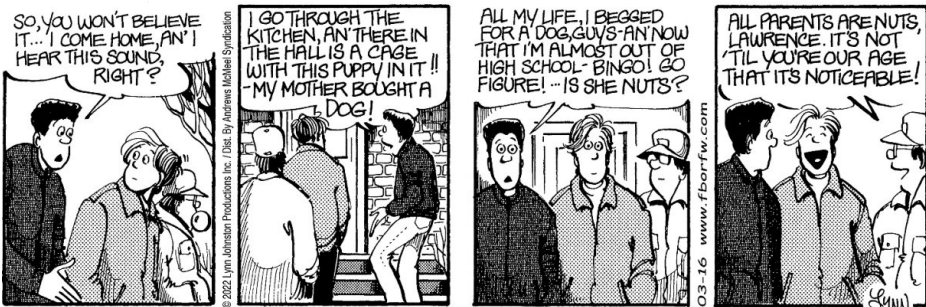
Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Monty By Jim Meddick



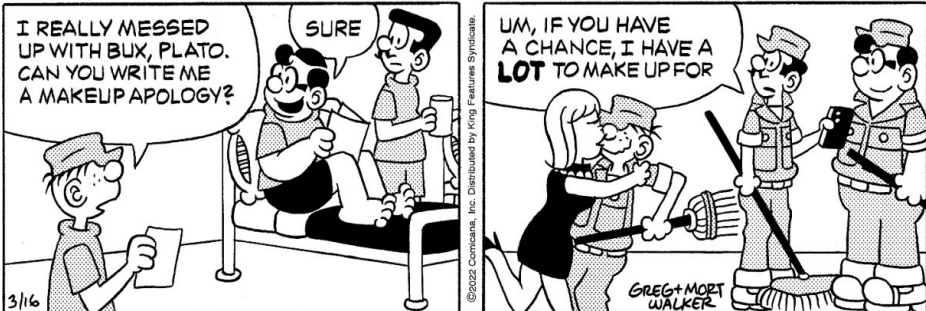
For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



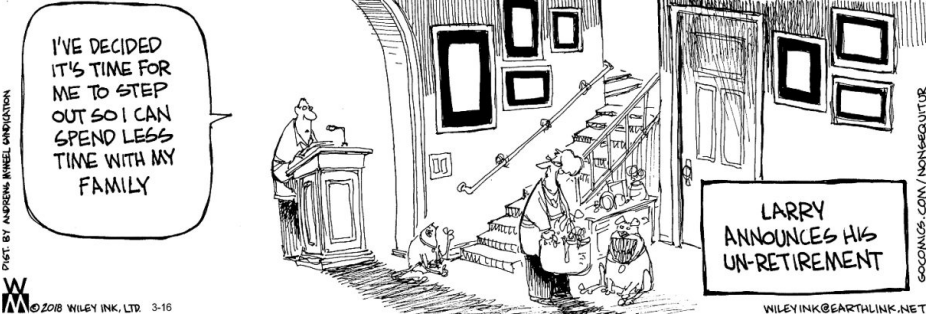
Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



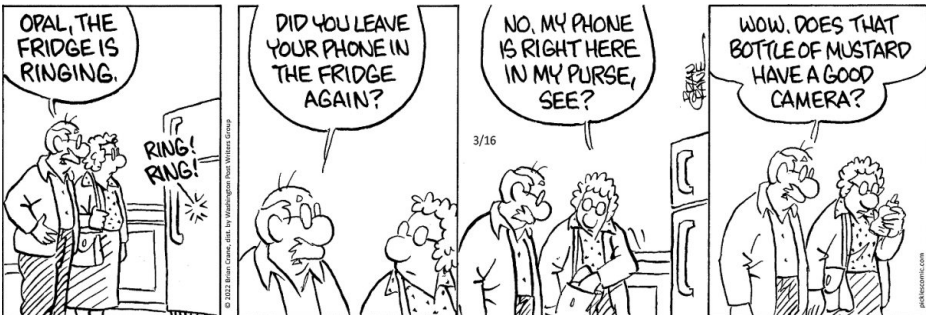
Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



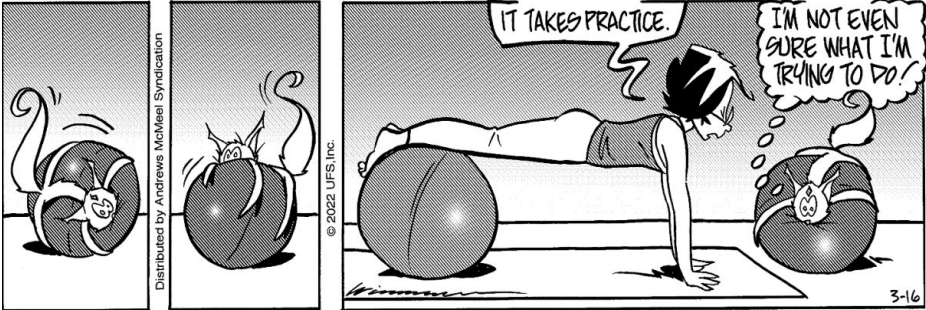
Pickles By Brian Crane



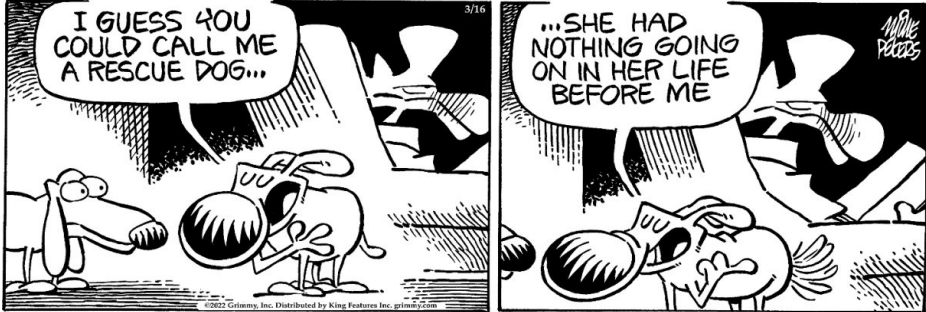
Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



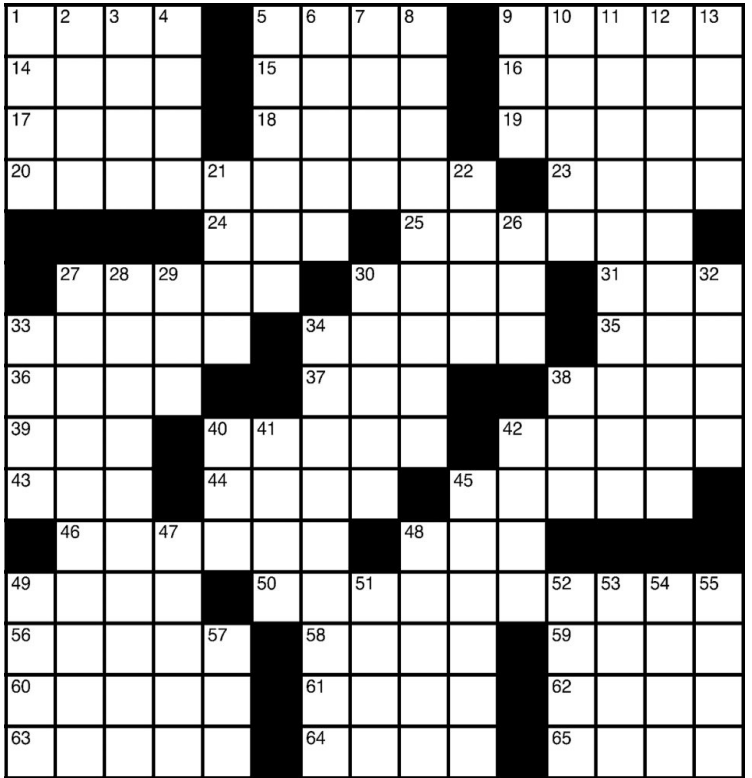
Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- Across**
- 1 Semi-hard cheese
 - 5 Windows navigation aids
 - 9 Come together
 - 14 Block party item?
 - 15 Memo abbr.
 - 16 Atlanta campus
 - 17 Heaps
 - 18 Baby Moses' river
 - 19 "Check it out!"
 - 20 *Monday NFL contests, e.g.
 - 23 Boo
 - 24 Seemingly forever
 - 25 Architect's work
 - 27 "12 Days" septet
 - 30 Drink with formaggio
 - 31 Spa sound
 - 33 Garden pest
 - 34 Keto and South Beach
 - 35 Tech sch. near Albany, N.Y.
 - 36 Transvaal settler
 - 37 Newspaper VIPs
 - 38 Econ. barometers
 - 39 Front-end car cover
 - 40 First stage
 - 42 Skins
 - 43 ABA member
 - 44 Quarter-back-turned-analyst
 - 45 Tony
 - 45 "A Gallery of Children" author
 - 46 Food court pizza seller
 - 48 Grafton who wrote 25 "Alphabet Mystery" books
 - 49 WWI German vice admiral
 - 50 What happens on March 20, 2022, at 11:33 a.m. ... and what both parts of the answers to starred clues are
 - 56 Analyze in a grammar lesson
 - 58 Perth put-offs
 - 59 Joint malady
 - 60 Symbol for turning traffic
 - 61 Snake River jumper
 - 62 Stare in wonder
 - 63 Video call option
 - 64 "Hey" assistant
 - 65 53-Down's firstborn
 - 6 Light-loving flier
 - 5 Dances like the one seen in "Evita"
 - 6 Thai or Laotian
 - 7 Pain soother
 - 8 Like a sprint winner
 - 9 Bit of RAM
 - 10 Face with tears of joy, for one
 - 11 *View from the Oval Office
 - 12 *Granny Smith, e.g.
 - 13 Observer
 - 21 Mind
 - 22 Email tab
 - 26 Palindromic 33-Down hit
 - 27 *Multi-field athletic venue
 - 28 *Crunchy salad add-in
 - 29 __ guitar
 - 30 Vintage MTV staple
 - 32 Villain's welcome
 - 33 26-Down group
 - 34 State capital on its own river
 - 38 Toothpaste choice
 - 40 The Boston Bruins retired his #4 in 1979
 - 41 Swed. neighbor
 - 42 Berth place
 - 45 Granola relative
 - 47 "Zeus and the Tortoise" storyteller
 - 48 Texas ranger?
 - 49 Massage spots
 - 51 "Avatar" race
 - 52 Breakfast items
 - 53 Biblical builder
 - 54 Hornswoggle
 - 55 Originate (from)
 - 57 Lea grazer
- Down**
- 1 Verve
 - 2 Sub contractor?
 - 3 Visibly awed



By Darryl Gonzalez Tribune Content Agency 3/16/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 8 2
♥ K 6
♦ A Q J 10
♣ A Q 5 3

WEST
♠ 4
♥ 10 9 8 5 3
♦ 8 6 2
♣ 10 8 6 4

EAST
♠ Q J 6 3
♥ A Q 2
♦ 9 7 5 4
♣ K 9

SOUTH
♠ A K 10 7 5
♥ J 7 4
♦ K 3
♣ J 7 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

Mind game

Whenever possible, a defender should try to divert declarer from the winning line of play. East did exactly that in today's deal and talked South out of what appeared to be a surefire four-spade contract.

West led a heart, and East took the first two tricks with the queen and ace. Declarer noted immediately that his potential club loser could eventually be taken care of by dummy's diamonds, so his only real concern was to make sure he did not lose two trump tricks.

Since he could lose a spade and still make the contract, he could afford to try the standard safety play with this combination: cash the ace, cross to dummy with a diamond, lead the nine of spades and let it ride. If East started with the Q-J-x-x of spades, this would limit South to one spade loser, while if West won the trick, it would mean the spades were originally divided 3-2. Declarer would therefore have made his contract easily

had East returned a heart, a diamond or a spade at trick three. But East, who was well-versed in safety plays, decided not to sit idly by while South overcame the 4-1 spade division. After collecting his two heart tricks, he blithely shifted to the nine of clubs!

This unexpected development gave South pause for thought. The nine of clubs had all the earmarks of singleton. If it was, attempting the safety play would risk the contract. If West started with the Q-x or J-x of spades, he would return a club after winning the second spade, and East would ruff to sink the contract.

So after taking the nine of clubs with the queen, declarer led a spade to the ace and then cashed the king. When West showed out on the second round, South realized, to his chagrin, that he had been had by East's clever play.

Tomorrow: Ultrasane insanity.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ZOKOA

RNKID

GWILGE

REEFRP

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Remember, the ground's not stable right there.

Remember.

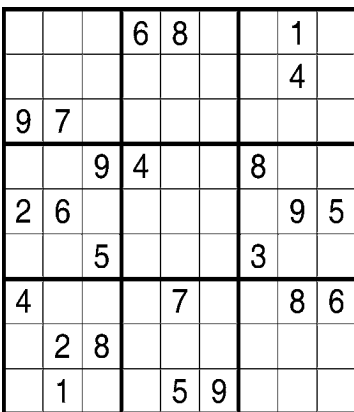
THEY KNEW TO STAY AWAY FROM THE RIM OF THE CANYON BECAUSE THEY HAD ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

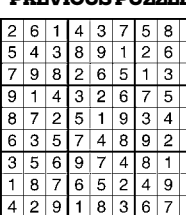
Yesterday's Jumbles: GLADE FRESH COLONY IMPORT Answer: To learn as much as possible about the Andes, students need to study a --- RANGE OF TOPICS

TODAY'S SUDOKU



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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Today!



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One FREE**

Buy One Mitsubishi Electric Ductless Split
Pay For One Head – Get The 2nd – FREE
**Heat or Cool One Big Room
Or Two Smaller Rooms**

Pay Less Than **\$100/mo***

**.99%_{apr} – 10Yr.
Financing Offer**

**To Stay Cool All
Summer Long – Warm
All Winter!**

Get First 3 Months – FREE
Up to \$500 Added Value – But Only If You
Order By March 31**

ADDED BONUS
REASON

WAIT...THERE'S
EVEN MORE!

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*Example: project cost \$10,800. Maximum Loan Term: 108 Mos. Loan Amount: \$9,720 Down Payment: \$1,080. Monthly Payment: \$94.11. Rates and rebates contingent on local utility participation. TERMS and Conditions apply. Offer is for one standard compressor unit and two standard Mitsubishi Ductless Split head units. EnergizeCT offers an immediate consumer rebate of up to \$500 depending on equipment selected. Minimum size restrictions and SEER ratings apply. Not available on previous sales. See Daniels Energy representative for complete details. This Mitsubishi offer ends March 31, 2022. ** 3 months FREE offer valid for sales made during the month of March, 2022 only. Maximum value: \$500. Daniels Energy CT license S1-385517 HOD#19/ Daniels Propane LLC #846 CT license S1-302857.



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FOR SOME, FEELING
LEFT OUT
LASTS MORE THAN A MOMENT.

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Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM/SPORTS

BASEBALL

Unvaccinated Yankees, Mets can't play at home

Under current NYC rules, such players would be prohibited

By **Stefan Bondy and Dennis Young**
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Unvaccinated players on the Yankees and Mets are covered by the same private sector employer mandate that is

keeping Kyrie Irving off the court in Brooklyn, a City Hall spokesperson told the New York Daily News.

Mayor Eric Adams repealed the Key2NYC vaccine mandate covering indoor spaces like gyms, dining and entertainment on Mar. 7. But Irving remained ineligible to play under a separate regulation: A private employer mandate put in place by the de Blasio administration on Dec. 27.

The spokesperson cautioned that mandates could shift with the state of the pandemic, but said that the city would not be carving out individual exceptions. The fact that the baseball teams play outside has no bearing on the mandate, the spokesperson said.

Bottom line: unless the mandate changes, unvaccinated members of the Mets and Yankees would not be eligible to play home games, in addition to road games

in Toronto.

"We have to worry about the health of almost nine million people. No one is trying to hurt Kyrie Irving or a Yankees player," the spokesperson said.

"On behalf of the Yankees, Randy Levine is working with City Hall and all other appropriate officials on this matter," the Yankees said in a statement.

Turn to Vaccines, Page 2

Inside

- Aaron Judge won't discuss Yankee contract extension during season: "We'll be focused on winning ballgames." **Page 2**
- Red Sox players Xander Bogaerts, Christian Arroyo say they are in fact vaccinated. **Page 2**
- Jeff McNeil will play second base over Robinson Cano 'majority' of the time, Buck Showalter says. **Page 2**

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Success of quiet team leader speaks volumes

Berube, a member of the 1995 national championship team, has Princeton rolling

By **Dom Amore**
Hartford Courant

The UConn women's basketball teams of the mid-1990s made a lot of noise with high-profile players like Rebecca Lobo, Jennifer Rizzotti and Kara Wolters bringing the program to a crescendo, the unbeaten season in 1994-95.

Carla Berube, who scored 1,381 points for UConn, went about her business without a lot of people taking notice. Coach Geno Auriemma, in those days, wouldn't have believed Berube had coaching in her future.

"No, that would have involved communicating a lot, talking a lot, speaking to other people a lot," Auriemma said. "And that wasn't one of the things Carla was interested in, unless it was just me. Maybe Carla talked to everyone but me."

Confirmed. "I just didn't talk to *him*," Berube joked. "I talked to everybody else. I was very shy, kind of an introvert, but I think I had good relationships with my teammates. I was just young."

Berube's coaching career, however, speaks loud and clear. She is not only coaching material, but has won 81.6% of her games in 19 seasons, a winning percentage to rival Auriemma's 88.5. This week Berube leads Princeton, the Ivy League champions and an 11th seed, into the NCAA Tournament to play No. 6 Kentucky on Saturday in Bloomington, Indiana. If Princeton can get out of that

Turn to Berube, Page 4

Up next



UConn vs. Mercer
1 p.m. Sat., ABC

Bloomfield head coach Kevin Moses, center, is embraced by players Howard Simpson and Lake McLean, right, after their win in the Div. IV semifinals against Morgan on Tuesday in New Britain. **JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**



HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Bloomfield rolls into Division IV final

By **Lori Riley**
Hartford Courant

The Morgan boys basketball team was down 13 at halftime of the Division IV semifinal game against Bloomfield Tuesday night at New Britain High.

The Huskies almost came all the way back, cutting the lead to two with 3:46 left in the game.

But Bloomfield, sensing its goal of reaching the state final slipping away, revved back into high gear. The Warhawks reeled off 11 straight points, locked up 10th-seeded Morgan on defense and took control of the game, winning 76-67. They will play Granby, which beat Cromwell 59-48 in the second game of the doubleheader at New Britain

Tuesday, in the Division IV championship game either Saturday or Sunday at a time to be determined at the Mohegan Sun Arena.

Freshman Jaysean Williams led sixth-seeded Bloomfield (20-5) with 22 points, shooting 8-for-8 from the free throw line, and senior Lake McLean added 17. It will be

Turn to Bloomfield, Page 4

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL



UConn's R.J. Cole (2) and Tyrese Martin (4) have a moment during a break in the action in the second half against DePaul on March 5 at Gampel Pavilion. The two seniors hope to guide a run in the NCAA Tournament to cement the Huskies' national resurgence. **CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

The redeemers

In attempt to bring the program back to prominence, these Huskies are looking to shift tournament fortunes

By **Shreyas Laddha**
Hartford Courant

It's been 360 days since the No. 7 seed UConn men's basketball team lost, to No. 10 Maryland, 63-54, in the first round of the NCAA Tournament at Mackey Arena in Indianapolis.

The Huskies hadn't made the tournament since 2016, and it showed.

"We let the moment get to us," said UConn forward Tyrese

Martin. "We realized we were in March, so everybody had the jitters."

This time around, expectations have risen. There is a buzz about this program that hasn't been there in years. The team is itching for a chance to prove itself and bring itself back into national prominence with a deep tournament run.

"We aren't just happy to be there," said Huskies guard R.J. Cole. "I think we have a real

opportunity to make some noise in the tournament and make a run."

UConn finished 23-9 and 13-6 in the Big East, third in the conference. The Huskies lost, 63-60, in the Big East Tournament semifinals to eventual champion Villanova. It is UConn coach Dan Hurley's best season in his four-year tenure and earned the Huskies a No. 5 seed in the West

Turn to Huskies, Page 4

Up next



UConn vs. New Mexico St.
6:50 p.m. Thu., TNT

COMING THURSDAY

Check out our e-edition at **courant.com** for an 8-page section previewing the NCAA men's and women's tournaments. It will include breakdowns of both tournaments, brackets, history and more.

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SPORTS

GOLF TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Reigning FedEx Cup champ Cantlay joins 2022 field

Staff report

Patrick Cantlay, the No. 4 PGA Tour golfer in the Official World Golf Rankings, has committed to play in the 2022 Travelers Championship, the tournament announced Tuesday.

Cantlay, the 2021 FedEx Cup champion and PGA Tour Player of the Year, won four tournaments during the 2022-21 season, includ-

ing back-to-back victories in the FedEx Cup playoffs at the BMW Championship and Tour Championship. His two other PGA Tour wins last season came at the Zozo Championship and Memorial Tournament.

“Patrick has been playing some of the best golf on the PGA Tour in recent years,” said Travelers Championship tournament director Nathan Grube. “We’re thrilled

that our fans will be able to watch the tour’s current player of the year, and we thank Patrick for his continued support.”

Cantlay joins four other players ranked in the top 10 in the Travelers field, including No. 5 Scottie Scheffler, No. 7 Rory McIlroy, No. 8 Justin Thomas and No. 10 Dustin Johnson. This year’s event takes place June 23-26 at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell.

Cantlay won his first PGA Tour event in 2017 at the Shriners Children’s Open and won the Memorial in 2019. At 19, he shot a 10-under 60 in the second round of the 2011 Travelers Championship. It is the lowest single-round score by an amateur in PGA Tour history and the best score of Cantlay’s career.

“From the first time he ever played in our tournament, Patrick made it clear that he would be a

force on the PGA Tour,” said Andy Bessette, executive vice president and chief administrative officer at Travelers. “To see him go from a college amateur playing on an exemption to a multiple-time tour winner who was voted by his peers as the top player is remarkable. It has been fun to watch his career unfold, and we are excited that he will be back competing in the Travelers Championship this June.”

UP NEXT

UConn MBB: NCAA First Round vs. New Mexico State, Thursday, 6:50 p.m.; NCAA Second Round (if necessary) vs. TBD, Saturday/Sunday, time TBD; NCAA Sweet 16 (if necessary) vs. TBD, March 24/25, time TBD

UConn WBB: NCAA First Round vs. Mercer, Saturday, 1 p.m.; NCAA Second Round (if necessary) vs. TBD, Sunday/Monday, time TBD; NCAA Sweet 16 (if necessary) vs. TBD, March 26/27, time TBD

Celtics: at Warriors, Wednesday, 10 p.m.; at Kings, Friday, 10 p.m.; at Nuggets, Sunday, 8 p.m.

Knicks: Trail Blazers, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Wizards, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Jazz, Sunday, 7:30 p.m.

Nets: Mavericks, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Trail Blazers, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Jazz, Monday, 7:30 p.m.

UConn hockey: Hockey East Semifinal vs. Northeastern, Friday, 4 p.m.; Hockey East Final (if necessary) vs. UMass Lowell/UMass, Saturday, 7 p.m.

Bruins: at Wild, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Jets, Friday, 8 p.m.; at Canadiens, Monday, 7 p.m.

Rangers: Islanders, Thursday, 7 p.m.; at Lightning, Saturday, 8 p.m.; at Hurricanes, Sunday, 6 p.m.

Wolf Pack: at Syracuse, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Laval, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Belleville, Saturday, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASEBALL

7 p.m.: Coastal Carolina at NC State. (Live) ACC

BASKETBALL

7 p.m.: 2022 NIT Basketball Tournament First Round: Mississippi State at Virginia. (Live) ESPN2

7 p.m.: NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament First Four: Incarnate Word vs Howard. (Live) ESPNU

7:30 p.m.: Trail Blazers at Knicks. (Live), MSG

7:30 p.m.: Mavericks at Nets. (Live), ESPN, YES

9 p.m.: NIT Basketball Tournament First Round: Iona at Florida. (Live) ESPN2

9 p.m.: NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament First Four: Dayton vs DePaul. (Live) ESPNU

10 p.m.: Celtics at Warriors. (Live), ESPN, NBCSB

10:30 p.m.: Raptors at Clippers. (Live) SPRTNET

BOWLING

8 p.m.: WSOB Shark Championship Finals. (Live) FSI

HOCKEY

7:30 p.m.: Blue Jackets at Senators. (Live) SPRTNET

7:30 p.m.: Bruins at Wild. (Live) TNT

8 p.m.: Milwaukee Admirals at Chicago Wolves. (Live) NHL

10 p.m.: Lightning at Kraken. (Live) TNT

RUGBY

4 a.m.: NRL Rugby Melbourne Storm vs South Sydney Rabbitohs. (Live) FSP

SOCCER

1:30 p.m.: Italian Serie B Soccer Ascoli vs AC Pisa 1909. (Live) FSP

7:30 p.m.: Copa do Brazil Soccer Tuntum vs Cruzeiro EC. (Live) FSP

10 p.m.: CONCACAF Champions League Soccer Quarterfinal: Universidad Nacional vs New England Revolution. (Live) FSI

TENNIS

2 p.m.: ATP/WTA Tennis ATP Paribas Open: BNP Round of 16, WTA Quarterfinal 1 & 2, ATP/WTA Doubles Quarterfinals. (Live) TENNIS



The Red Sox’s Xander Bogaerts watches his double against the Astros during the fifth inning in Game 4 of the ALCS on Oct. 19 in Boston. DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

RED SOX

Bogaerts, Arroyo say they are, in fact, vaccinated

By Peter Abraham
Boston Globe

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts said Tuesday that he was vaccinated against COVID-19 during the offseason, as did second baseman Christian Arroyo.

“Yes. So get that out of here,” Bogaerts said while smiling.

Arroyo said he discussed it with people close to him first.

“It was the right thing to do,” he said.

Sports Illustrated reported that backup catcher Kevin Plawewski also agreed to get a shot after refusing last year.

Canada’s decision to rescind a waiver allowing unvaccinated professional athletes into the country without a quarantine could potentially be an issue for the Red Sox given the 10 games they have scheduled in Toronto this season.

The status of lefthanders Chris Sale and Josh Taylor is not yet known, but manager Alex Cora expressed confidence the Sox would not face adverse effects.

“We keep talking to guys and things change. We should be OK,” Cora said. “We’re going to be OK.”

Bogaerts said he would encourage any unvaccinated teammates to get a shot.

The first game in Toronto is April 25. To be considered in compliance with Canadian law, a player would have to have his second dose (or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine) by April 11.

Major League Baseball cannot mandate vaccines for players under the terms of the collective bargaining agreement, but unvaccinated players who do not travel to Canada would be placed on the restricted list for the series and could lose pay and service time if their team chooses.

For Sale, that would be approximately \$1.8 million.

MLB has essentially issued a mandate for managers, coaches, athletic trainers, and other personnel who work closely with teams, ruling that any unvaccinated employee would not be allowed in restricted areas.

“Hopefully with continued education and understanding, everyone will be vacci-

nated as we get into the season,” team president Sam Kennedy said.

“Any time you don’t have a full complement of players, whether it’s vaccination or other health-related issues, it’s always a concern.”

Eovaldi for openers?: Nate Eovaldi faced hitters for what amounted to two innings Tuesday and is scheduled to start in Saturday’s Grapefruit League game against Tampa Bay on Friday and go two innings.

That schedule would allow Eovaldi to make four starts in spring training before starting Opening Day against the Yankees on April 7 in New York.

Nick Pivetta is scheduled to start his first game Sunday. That would line him up for the second game of the regular season.

Strahm deal is done: New lefthanded relievers Jake Diekman and Matt Strahm were in uniform for the workout. Only Strahm’s one-year, \$3 million deal was made official.

Strahm, 30, has six years of major league experience but appeared in only six games for the Padres last season because of a right knee injury

Diekman, 35, agreed to a what amounts to an \$8 million deal. He has \$3.5 million guaranteed for this season and next and either a \$4 million team option for 2024 or a \$1 million buyout.

Numbers game: Jackie Bradley Jr. reclaimed the No. 19 he wore from 2017-20. Hirokazu Sawamura shifted to 18.

James Paxton has 65, Michael Wacha has 52 and Rich Hill took 44. In earlier stints with the Red Sox, Hill had 53 from 2010-12 and 62 in 2015.

Garrett Whitlock (72) and Tanner Houck (89) stayed with their decidedly pedestrian numbers from last season, although that could change.

Devers open to extension: Rafael Devers cannot become a free agent until after the 2023 season. But he’s willing to discuss a long-term contract. “This is my home,” he said. “I want to play here.” Devers, 25, is one of the best hitters in the game. His last three seasons have produced an .886 OPS, 194 extra-base hits, and 271s RBI over 369 games.

METS

Showalter: McNeil will play second base over Cano ‘majority’ of time

By Deesha Thosar
New York Daily News

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — On Tuesday, Mets manager Buck Showalter confirmed the somewhat obvious: Jeff McNeil, not Robinson Cano, will be the starting second baseman.

“I don’t think it’ll be split [playing time],” Showalter said. “I think Mac will get the majority there.”

Cano, 39, has returned to the Mets after serving a second-career PED suspension in 2021. Though Cano has been working out with the team, and taking grounders alongside McNeil, it would have been surprising if the veteran was named the Mets’ full-time starting second baseman this year.

Even so, Showalter wants McNeil and Cano to continue taking reps at second base together during spring training, with Cano also getting some reps at first base. He also played 14 games at first base for the Mariners in 2018. The skipper would not pigeon-hole Cano as the Mets’ everyday designated hitter, either.

“I think Robbie knows that he’s not going to play second base every day for us, as much as he wants to,” Showalter said. “We hope he’s not a pure DH either. I think there’s potential for him to play at first base

if needed. It’s also good to hear that Mac is capable of playing [in the outfield].”

The Mets will try to be as careful as possible about Cano’s health in 2022. The team is prioritizing the veteran staying healthy for a full season, and believes he can be a huge asset both at the plate and in the clubhouse.

Otto arrives: Adam Ottavino, the newest Met, arrived at spring training on Tuesday. The Mets signed the former Yankees and Red Sox reliever to a one-year deal on Sunday. The right-hander reflected on his experience waiting to be signed during the 99-day lockout.

“The lockout, we were all training, doing our usual, not knowing,” Ottavino said. “Then finally that ended and I started getting more anxious after that because I had to get a job and didn’t know how long that was going to take.”

Cookie starts out healthy: Carlos Carrasco is welcoming a busy Mets camp this year, especially since he missed significant time with a hamstring injury right at the beginning of spring training last season. In October, the right-hander underwent an elbow procedure to remove a bone fragment, which he said is something he’s been dealing with for the past seven years.

YANKEES

Judge won’t discuss contract extension during the season

By Kristie Ackert

New York Daily News

TAMPA, Fla. — The clock is ticking.

There are 23 days left for the Yankees to talk about an extension with Aaron Judge. The slugger said Tuesday afternoon there haven’t been any discussions yet, and if it isn’t done before the April 7 season opener, then “we’ll talk after the season.”

“We won’t be talking with the Yankees; we’ll be focused on winning ballgames for the Yankees,” Judge said after workouts at George M. Steinbrenner Field on Tuesday. “The last thing I want to do is be in the middle of May, and after a good series, talking about the extension or after an 0-for-4 and people be like, ‘You should have signed that extension.’”

“We’ll try to get everything out of the way right now while we’re still prepping and getting ready for the season. But once it’s April 7, packed house in the Bronx, it’s gonna be time just to focus on my ballgames.”

On Monday general manager Brian Cashman agreed it would be preferable to get a deal done before the opener, and he expects to have conversations with Judge at some point. His hands were tied for the last three months — after the owners locked out the players, communication between the sides wasn’t allowed.

Since the lockout lifted Thursday night, Cashman has been trying to rebuild his roster but said “we’re happy he’s a Yankee and it’ll be great if we can make it longer than

this year.”

Judge, who made \$10.17 million last year, said yet again he hopes to play his entire career in pinstripes.

The outfielder, who will turn 30 next month, is coming off his best full year since he burst onto the scene as a rookie in 2017 and is projected to make about \$17 million in his final year of arbitration eligibility.

Tailon is ahead of schedule: When Jameson Tailon tore the tendon in his right ankle, which required surgery to repair, the initial expectation was he would not be ready until May. The right-handed pitcher said Tuesday, however, that he thinks he is on track to break camp for Opening Day.

“They gave me a timeline, but this isn’t a very common pitching injury so they said work with us, and I kept my arm moving the whole time,” Tailon said. “I think that helps.”

Andujar focused on field: Just weeks after he was beaten and robbed at gunpoint at his farm in Dominican Republic, Miguel Andujar was trying to forget the scary experience.

“Yeah, definitely a tough situation right there,” Andujar said through Yankees interpreter Marlon Abreu.

Severino in the lead: Luis Severino threw two simulated innings of live batting practice Tuesday, facing Judge, Joey Gallo and Josh Donaldson. Severino has pitched in just 27 ⅓ innings since he suffered a shoulder injury in spring training 2019, which was followed by Tommy John surgery in 2020.

Vaccines

from Page 1

“We will have no further comment.”

Levine is the president of the Yankees and a longtime New York political figure. He was Rudy Giuliani’s labor commissioner when Giuliani was mayor from 1994 to 1995.

The Mets did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday morning.

The start of the MLB season was slightly delayed by the owners’ lockout. The Mets’ first home game is scheduled for Apr. 15, while the Yankees’ home opener is Apr. 7, Opening Day against the Red Sox.

Sources in both leagues believe the issue will be resolved by Opening Day.

It’s unclear exactly which players on the New York baseball teams are unvaccinated, but Yankees superstar Aaron Judge is widely believed to have not received the shot. When news came out that unvaccinated players could not play road games in Toronto, it was reported that the Yankees “would miss a chunk of the middle of their order,” implying star hitters other than Judge were unvaccinated. Judge’s vaccination status came up last summer, when he was among several Yankees to test positive for the virus after the All-Star break.

Judge was asked on Tuesday if he was vaccinated and evaded the question. “We’ll cross that bridge whenever the time comes,” he said. “So many things could change, so not really too worried about that right now.”

Several prominent Mets, like Pete Alonso, Francisco Lindor and Max Scherzer, took the vaccine in 2021. But the Mets were also one of

the least-vaccinated teams in baseball last year, never hitting the 85% threshold to loosen COVID protocols. Multiple Mets leaned on “personal choice” rhetoric when asked directly about the vaccine last year, including JD Davis, James McCann and now-free agent Michael Conforto.

Adams has not indicated that he’s considering dropping the private sector mandate, likely a contentious issue politically after firing 1,500 city workers for refusing the vaccine in February. On Sunday, Irving pointedly sat courtside and went in the Nets’ locker room, which earned the Nets a \$50,000 fine from the NBA for violating the private sector mandate. After the spectacle at the Barclays Center, Kevin Durant blasted the mayor, saying that banning Irving was just Adams seeking attention. (Durant later issued a statement clarifying that “My frustration with the situation doesn’t change the fact that I will always be committed to helping the communities and cities I live in and play in.”)

At a Parks Department event on Sunday, Adams was heckled about Irving. “Listen. You’re right,” the mayor responded. “Kyrie can play tomorrow. Get vaccinated.”

One major union backed the mandate in response. “Every essential worker you see around the Barclays Center had to get vaccinated to keep their job. Kyrie Irving is still getting his checks,” the SEIU, a major service-industry union, tweeted on Monday. (Irving is not being paid for home games that he misses while unvaccinated.) “So the real question is: why do millionaires think they deserve an exception to the rules?”

SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Florida	59	40	13	6	86	245	173		
Tampa Bay	59	38	15	6	82	200	171		
Toronto	59	37	17	5	79	219	181		
Boston	59	36	18	5	77	180	160		
Detroit	59	24	28	7	55	170	221		
Buffalo	60	20	32	8	48	162	212		
Ottawa	59	21	33	5	47	157	194		
Montreal	59	16	35	8	40	147	224		
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Carolina	59	41	13	5	87	198	139		
Pittsburgh	60	36	15	9	81	197	160		
N.Y. Rangers	59	37	17	5	79	180	154		
Washington	60	32	18	10	74	197	169		
Columbus	60	30	27	3	63	199	222		
N.Y. Islanders	56	24	24	8	56	152	157		
New Jersey	59	22	32	5	49	179	208		
Philadelphia	59	18	30	11	47	148	206		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Colorado	60	42	13	5	89	233	170		
St. Louis	59	34	17	8	76	211	165		
Minnesota	58	34	20	4	72	218	193		
Nashville	59	34	21	4	72	190	166		
Dallas	57	32	22	3	67	170	169		
Winnipeg	60	27	23	10	64	182	187		
Chicago	60	22	30	8	52	161	208		
Arizona	59	19	36	4	42	153	213		
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Calgary	59	36	16	7	79	204	143		
Los Angeles	61	33	20	8	74	178	173		
Edmonton	59	32	23	4	68	193	187		
Vegas	61	32	25	4	68	192	183		
Vancouver	60	29	24	7	65	173	174		
Anaheim	62	27	25	10	64	180	197		
San Jose	58	26	25	7	59	154	182		
Seattle	61	18	37	6	42	159	220		

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Anaheim at N.Y. Rangers, late
Arizona at Montreal, late
Dallas at Toronto, late
N.Y. Islanders at Washington, late
Pittsburgh at Nashville, late
Vegas at Winnipeg, late
Boston at Chicago, late
Detroit at Edmonton, late
New Jersey at Vancouver, late
Colorado at Los Angeles, late
Florida at San Jose, late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Boston at Minnesota, 7:30p.m.
Columbus at Ottawa, 7:30p.m.
New Jersey at Calgary, 10p.m.
Tampa Bay at Seattle, 10p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Carolina at Toronto, 7p.m.
Dallas at Montreal, 7p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
Nashville at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
Washington at Columbus, 7p.m.
Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 8p.m.
Buffalo at Edmonton, 9p.m.
Detroit at Vancouver, 10p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10p.m.
Florida at Vegas, 10:30p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Philadelphia at Ottawa, 7p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 7p.m.
Boston at Winnipeg, 8p.m.
Buffalo at Calgary, 9p.m.
Florida at Anaheim, 10p.m.
Colorado at San Jose, 10:30p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULT
Arizona 5, Ottawa 3

SEASON VICTORY LEADERS				
GOALTENDER	TM	W	L	OL
Andrei Vasilevskiy	TBL	31	11	4
Frederik Andersen	CAR	30	8	2
Sergei Bobrovsky	FLA	30	6	3

TENNIS

BNP PARIBAS OPEN
At Indian Wells Tennis Garden, Indian Wells, Calif., hardcourt outdoors
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32
#6 Matteo Berrettini d.
#30 Lloyd Harris, 6-4, 7-5.
#7 Andrey Rublev vs.
#18 Francesco Tiafoe, late
#21 Hubert Hurkacz vs.
Steve Johnson, late
#23John Isner d.
#14 Diego Schwartzman, 7-5, 6-3.
#23John Isner, late
#20 Taylor Fritz d. Jaume Munar, 6-4, 2-6, 7-6(2).
#29 Alex de Minaur d. Tommy Paul, 7-6(2), 6-4.
#31 Alexander Bublik vs.
Grigor Dimitrov, late
Miomir Kecmanovic d.
Botic Van de Zandschulp, 7-6(3), 7-5.

WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
#3 Iga Swiatek d.
#15 Angelique Kerber, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.
#5 Paula Badosa vs.
#18 Leylah Fernandez, late
#6 Maria Sakkai d. Daria Saville, 4-1, ret.
#17 Elena Rybakina vs.
#31 Viktorija Golubic, late
#21 Veronika Kudermetova vs.
#30 Marketa Vondrousova, late
#24 Simona Halep d.
#26 Sorana Cirstea, 6-1, 6-4.
#25 Madison Keys d. Harriet Dart, 6-1, 6-4.
Petra Martic d.
#28 Liudmila Samsonova, 7-6(6), 6-4.

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL	WEDNESDAY
FAVORITE	LINE
at Wright State	3½
at Toledo	1
at Virginia	2½
at Wake Forest	8
at SMU	15
at St. Louis	4
at BYU	11½
at Florida	7
Notre Dame	1
Gonzaga	23
Michigan	2½
Providence	2½
Memphis	2½
Baylor	21
Tennessee	17
Iowa	10½
North Carolina	4
UConn	6½
Kentucky	17½
San Diego St.	2½
Arkansas	5½
Murray State	Pk
UCLA	13½
Fresno St.	off
Ohio State	Pk
Auburn	15½
Texas Tech	15
Purdue	15½
Villanova	15
USC	1½
Texas	Pk
Illinois	8
Duke	18½
LSU	4
Houston	8
Michigan State	1
Wisconsin	7½
Seton Hall	1½

NBA	WEDNESDAY
FAVORITE	LINE
at Charlotte	3 (OFF)
Philadelphia	4 (217) at Cleveland
Denver	5½ (228½) at Wash.
at New York	10 (225) Portland
at Brooklyn	off (OFF)
Phoenix	11 (OFF) at Houston
at Minnesota	8 (237) LA Lakers
at San Antonio	14 (234½) Okla. City
at Utah	6 (218) Chicago
Milwaukee	9 (240½) at Sacra.
at Golden St.	4 (off) Boston
Toronto	2½ (218½) at LA Clippers

NHL	WEDNESDAY
FAVORITE	LINE
at Ottawa	-113 Columbus
at Minnesota	-111 Boston
Tampa Bay	-255 at Seattle
at Calgary	-310 New Jersey

For the latest odds, go to [FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/](https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/)

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	41	26	.612	—
Boston	41	28	.594	1
Toronto	38	30	.559	3 ½
Brooklyn	35	33	.515	6 ½
New York	28	40	.412	13 ½
SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	45	24	.652	—
Atlanta	34	34	.500	10 ½
Charlotte	34	35	.493	11
Washington	29	38	.433	15
Orlando	18	51	.261	27

CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Milwaukee	43	26	.623	—
Chicago	41	27	.603	1 ½
Cleveland	39	29	.574	3 ½
Indiana	23	46	.333	20
Detroit	18	50	.265	24 ½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	47	22	.681	—
Dallas	42	26	.618	4 ½
New Orleans	28	40	.412	18 ½
San Antonio	26	43	.377	21
Houston	17	51	.250	29 ½

NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	42	26	.618	—
Denver	41	28	.594	1 ½
Minnesota	40	30	.571	3
Portland	26	41	.388	15 ½
Oklahoma City	20	48	.294	22

PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
x-Phoenix	54	14	.794	—
Golden State	47	22	.681	7 ½
L.A. Clippers	36	35	.507	19 ½
L.A. Lakers	29	39	.426	25
Sacramento	25	45	.357	30

x-clinched playoff spot

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Brooklyn at Orlando, late
Memphis at Indiana, late
Detroit at Miami, late
Phoenix at New Orleans, late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Atlanta at Charlotte, 7p.m.
Denver at Washington, 7p.m.
Philadelphia at Cleveland, 7p.m.
Dallas at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
Portland at New York, 7:30p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Phoenix at Houston, 8p.m.
Oklahoma City at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
Chicago at Utah, 9p.m.
Boston at Golden State, 10p.m.
Milwaukee at Sacramento, 10p.m.
Toronto at L.A. Clippers, 10:30p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAME
Detroit at Orlando, 7p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Dallas at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
Denver at Cleveland, 7:30p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
Memphis at Atlanta, 7:30p.m.
Portland at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
Washington at New York, 7:30p.m.
Indiana at Houston, 8p.m.
Oklahoma City at Miami, 8p.m.
New Orleans at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Utah, 9p.m.
Boston at Sacramento, 10p.m.
Chicago at Phoenix, 10p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Cleveland 120, L.A. Clippers 111 (OT)
Denver 114, Philadelphia 110
Atlanta 122, Portland 113
Charlotte 134, Oklahoma City 116
Minnesota 149, San Antonio 139
Golden State 126, Washington 112
Sacramento 112, Chicago 103
Milwaukee 117, Utah 111
Toronto 114, L.A. Lakers 103

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Columbus	2	0	1	7	9	4
Philadelphia	2	0	1	7	5	2
N.Y. Red Bulls	2	1	0	6	7	3
D.C. United	2	1	0	6	4	2
Atlanta	2	1	0	6	5	5
Chicago	1	0	2	5	2	0
New York City FC	1	1	1	4	4	2
Orlando City	1	1	1	4	3	2
New England	1	1	1	4	5	2
Cincinnati	1	2	0	3	2	7
Toronto FC	0	2	1	1	3	7
Inter Miami CF	0	2	1	1	1	7
Charlotte FC	0	3	0	0	1	6
CF Montréal	0	3	0	0	2	8
WESTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Los Angeles FC	2	0	1	7	6	1
Real Salt Lake	2	0	1	7	4	2
Austin FC	2	1	0	6	10	2
Colorado	2	1	0	6	5	3
L.A. Galaxy	2	1	0	6	4	3
Portland	1	0	2	5	4	3
Minnesota United	1	0	2	5	3	2
FC Dallas	1	1	1	4	3	2
Houston	1	1	1	4	2	2
Nashville	1	1	1	4	2	3
Seattle	1	2	0	3	4	3
Kansas City	1	2	0	3	2	5
San Jose	0	2	1	1	4	8
Vancouver	0	2	1	1	1	6

Three points for win, one point for tie.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Miami at Cincinnati, 1p.m.
Philadelphia at New York City FC, 1p.m.
D.C. United at Toronto FC, 3p.m.
Orlando City at LA Galaxy, 3:30p.m.
CF Montréal at Atlanta, 4p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at Chicago, 6p.m.
New England at Charlotte FC, 7p.m.
San Jose at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Portland at FC Dallas, 8:30p.m.
Colorado at Houston, 8:30p.m.
Nashville at Real Salt Lake, 9:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
Columbus at N.Y. Red Bulls, 2p.m.
Seattle at Austin FC, 4:30p.m.
Vancouver at Los Angeles FC, 10p.m.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
TUESDAY, SECOND LEG
Benfica 1, Ajax 0
Benfica advanced on 3-2 aggregate
Manchester United 0, Atlético Madrid 1.
Atletico advanced on 2-1 aggregate

WEDNESDAY, SECOND LEG
Juventus vs. Villarreal, 4p.m.
Lille vs. Chelsea, 4p.m.

Advanced to next round
Atletico vs. Benfica
Bayern Munich vs. Liverpool
Manchester City vs. Real Madrid

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Man City	29	22	4	3	68	18	70
Liverpool	28	20	6	2	73	20	66
Chelsea	28	17	8	3	57	19	59
Arsenal	26	16	3	7	43	29	51
Man United	29	14	6	7	48	40	50
West Ham	29	14	6	9	48	38	48
Wolverhampton	29	14	4	11	29	23	46
Tottenham	27	14	3	10	42	35	45
Aston Villa	28	11	3	14	41	39	36
Southampton	29	8	11	10	36	45	35
Crystal Palace	29	7	13	9	39	38	34
Leicester	26	9	6	11	40	45	33
Brighton	28	7	12	9	26	34	31
Newcastle	28	7	10	11	32	48	31
Brentford	29	8	6	15	32	45	30
Leeds	29	6	8	15	31	65	26
Everton	26	6	4	16	28	47	22
Watford	29	6	4	19	29	55	22
Burnley	27	3	12	12	22	38	21
Norwich	29	4	5	20	18	63	17

WEDNESDAY'S MATCHES
Brighton vs. Tottenham, 3:30p.m.
Arsenal vs. Liverpool, 4:15p.m.

THURSDAY'S MATCH
Everton vs. Newcastle, 3:45p.m.

FRIDAY'S MATCHES
Wolverhampton vs. Leeds, 4p.m.
Burnley vs. Southampton, p.p.d
Man City vs. Arsenal, p.p.d

SATURDAY

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Thursday: vs. New Mexico
St., in Buffalo, 6:50 p.m., TNT

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: vs. Mercer, at
Gampel, 1 p.m., ABC

UConn
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Huskies

from Page 1

Region, where they will face No. 12 New Mexico State on Thursday at KeyBank Arena in Buffalo.

“A lot of times, you get judged off your outcomes in March,” Hurley said. “In a single-elimination tournament, that, in large part, involves matchups.”

Overall, Hurley believes this season has been another step in the right direction for the program.

“In terms of what we’ve been able to do, in terms of the staff and players and in terms of playing at the top of the league, back-to-back [tournament] appearances,” Hurley said. “This year, in a lot of ways, has been about taking the next step and getting better. Now, we are at the point of the year where we take the next step and play well this week.”

The Huskies’ four senior players — Cole, Martin, Isaiah Whaley and Tyler Polley — have played a big part in helping make that next step. They helped rebuild the program back to relevance and

are excited to redeem themselves after last year’s first-round loss.

“I definitely feel good,” Martin said. “We have to go out there with the experience we have from last year and know the things we messed up to get sent home first round. We have to make sure we don’t do those things and do the things we do well, great this time around.”

“I feel a lot more confidence coming into the tournament this year than last year,” Cole added. “With COVID and everything, mental, physical and everything was taxing and draining. Now we get a real experience. It’s going to help us.”

For Whaley and Polley, an opportunity like this is why they came back for one last hurrah for a chance to add to their UConn legacy. Cole and Martin still have a chance to come back, but they haven’t made up their minds yet.

“What these guys have done for the program to this point, in terms of being relevant and on the map, in being a team people talk about in March, they’ve done so much for us to get to this point,” Hurley said.

Opportunities to make deep

runs in March are ultimately why Hurley came to coach UConn in the first place.

“I loved coaching at the University of Rhode Island,” he said on WFAN’s Tiki & Tierney on Monday afternoon. “We established ourselves as a fringe top-25 level program. We were the class of the Atlantic 10. I had the program in a place where we would be the hunted in that league every year single year, and we weren’t going anywhere.

“The only reason I would leave a place where I truly love coaching at was to go to a place where you legitimately could compete for a national championship or Final Four. I didn’t come here to do good, I want to be an elite coach.”

Heading into the game, Hurley feels that playing in the Big East gives the Huskies an edge.

“We play in such a hard league that these guys are going to go in with a lot more confidence than they did last time,” he said.

Shreyas Laddha can be reached at sladdha@courant.com or at shre98 on Twitter.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Bacon teammates look to follow in sisters’ footsteps

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

In 2017, Valerie Luizzi and her future teammate Marissa Nudd watched their older sisters, Jocelyn Luizzi and Kellie Nudd, play in the Class M state girls basketball championship game at Mohegan Sun Arena for Bacon Academy.

Bacon lost that day to New Fairfield and finished as runner-up, but the girls never forgot the experience.

Now they will get to experience it themselves, five years later, as Bacon Academy seniors. The Bobcats will face undefeated and top-seeded Holy Cross for the Class M championship at Mohegan Sun either Saturday or Sunday at a time to be determined.

“I remember watching them beat Cromwell [in the second round], just like we beat Cromwell in the quarterfinals this year, to get to the Sun,” Nudd said Tuesday during a CIAC virtual press conference. “It’s a cool experience. For Val and I both, our sisters are huge supporters of us. It’s great to experience what they got to experience and follow in their footsteps.”

Second-seeded Bacon Academy (23-3) survived a 30-26 victory over East Hampton on Monday night in the semifinals. This is the first time Bacon has been to the finals since 2017.

“We’re going down there and trying to pull an upset against a team that’s undefeated,” Bacon Academy coach John Shea said. “They’re very talented. We’re going to go down and give it our best shot and see what happens.”

mined at Mohegan Sun Arena.

“It wasn’t the outcome we wanted,” Newington senior Lilly Ferguson said of the CCC final, which Newington lost 31-30. “It motivated me especially and it motivated all the other girls, like we don’t want to be put in another situation like that again. We were tested [Monday] night and we prevailed. We didn’t want the same outcome.”

Coventry gets big semifinal win in Class S

Coventry had to play Immaculate in the Class S semifinal Monday night. The Patriots were the third seed and Immaculate was the 15th seed. Immaculate beat Canton by 30 points in the first round of the Class S tournament, and Coventry had lost to Canton twice — once during the NCCC regular season and once in NCCC tournament quarterfinals.

There was a sense that the Patriots were the underdog in the game, despite the seeding disparity. But the seeds held — Coventry beat Immaculate 39-36 after Coventry junior Charlotte Jordan hit two free throws to give the Patriots the three-point lead and Immaculate’s Colleen Blackman missed a half-court shot at the buzzer that would have tied the game.

Two first-year coaches to meet in Class LL final

East Hartford is in its first state championship game in program history. The second-seeded Hornets, led by Seton Hall-bound Shailyn Pinkney, will play No. 12 seed Wilton in the Class LL championship game either Saturday or Sunday at Mohegan Sun Arena at a time to be determined.

The game will feature two first-year coaches in East Hartford’s Jon Myette and Wilton’s Keishaun Macklin.

“I think this is going to be a great matchup,” Myette said. “New coaches, new identities, new energy. They play disciplined, they play together, they play hard. Our 3 a.m. film sessions for the last four days is definitely going to carry over as we start to do team film.”

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Princeton coach Carla Berube, who played on UConn’s 1995 undefeated champs, cuts down the net after Princeton defeated Columbia in the NCAA Ivy League women’s college basketball championship game March 12. She’ll lead the Tigers against Kentucky on Saturday in the NCAA Tournament. **MARY SCHWALM/AP**

Berube

from Page 1

subregional, which also includes No. 3 Indiana and No. 14 Charlotte, Berube and Auriemma could meet in the Sweet 16 in Bridgeport.

“The quietest maybe we’ve ever coached, one of the most reserved kids we’ve ever had play here,” Auriemma said. “One of the toughest kids we’ve ever had play here, and maybe all those qualities have served her well as a coach. And, to her credit, she only coaches where really smart kids go, so that helps.”

After graduating from UConn, Berube, 46, played professionally a short time, then was an assistant at Providence. She took over the Division III program at Tufts in 2002 and across 17 years reached the Final Four four times, the championship game twice, going 384-96. She took over at Princeton in 2019, and was 26-1 when her first season was shut down due to COVID 19. The Ivy League didn’t play last season, but Berube and the Tigers picked up where they left off, going 24-4, 14-0 in conference, beating Columbia for the tournament crown.

“We spent the year trying to stay connected in the basketball realm,” Berube said, “but also staying connected to each other, maybe get to know each other in a way you don’t when you’re on campus with the hustle and bustle of the academic life. Even though we weren’t together we were still

getting better.”

When they returned last fall the team was inspired to play the season for Bella Alarie and Taylor Baur, stars of the 2019-20 team who didn’t get the chance to play in the postseason.

“We’ve got a good combination of really experienced players, and a group that’s young and new,” Berube said. “There’s a hunger that we have, having not played in two years. We’re just so thrilled to be playing together and having this opportunity, and to be playing for a Bella and a Taylor who didn’t get to have the end to their careers.”

Princeton earned its seed by playing a challenging nonconference schedule that included two Big East opponents, a 17-point win over Villanova in the season opener, and a loss to Seton Hall. The Tigers also played at Texas, losing by 17 before launching the 17-game winning streak to reach this point.

“It’s a great combination of things here,” Berube said. “We’re all playing at a very high level every game in practice and in games, and playing great basketball in March. That’s what you want to be doing, you want to be peaking at this time.”

Senior Abby Meyers, averaging 17.8 points, is Princeton’s top scorer, followed by junior Julia Cunningham (13.5).

“We’re really lucky to have great leadership on this team,” Berube said. “Abby Meyers, Julia Cunningham and [junior] Maggie Connolly are three great captains that get us ready, get us prepared.

They’re going to be locked in for Kentucky and what we think is going to get us success in that game.”

It’ll be a challenge. Kentucky (19-11) has won 10 in a row, sweeping the SEC tournament, stunning top-ranked South Carolina in the final on March 6.

“They’re SEC champs, we’re Ivy League champs,” Berube said. “We’ll be ready on Saturday to take them on.”

If that sounded somewhat defiant, remember that Berube isn’t just a former Husky, but a former ’95er, the team that stared down the established national powerhouses and began the UConn run of success that continues to this day. If Berube didn’t talk much in those days, she was obviously listening.

“My experience at Connecticut with Coach and [Chris Dailey], that’s where I truly had the greatest experience ever and knew I would like to be able to give back to this game,” Berube said. “I had this great experience, now how could I do that for others? When I decided I wanted to get into coaching, I had to come out of my shell a little more, to call up recruits, meet with families, but when I was talking about something I love and believe in, basketball and the coach I wanted to be, that’s where I found my calling. I think I still am an introvert, but if you see me in a practice or on the sideline, you wouldn’t necessarily believe that.”

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Lessons learned by Newington

After Newington lost to East Hartford on a buzzer-beating 3-pointer in the CCC championship game — the Nor’easters’ second loss to the Hornets this season — the Newington players decided they didn’t want to feel like that again.

On Monday night, Newington won a close one, 35-34, over CCC opponent E.O. Smith in the Class L semifinal game. Karissa Zocco hit the winning free throw with 3.2 seconds left. Top-seeded Newington will face No. 3 Notre Dame-Fairfield, coached by former UConn star Maria Conlon, in the Class L championship game either Saturday or Sunday at a time to be determined.

Bloomfield

from Page 1

the Warhawks’ first trip to the final since 2017, when they lost in the Class M championship game to Brookfield.

“I’ve been dreaming of this since fifth grade,” McLean said. “This is the best thing that’s ever happened to me.

“It was win or go home. I’m not going home. Not yet. We got to go to Mohegan. We understood what we had to do on defense, we understood they had good players, we locked in on defense.”

Morgan (18-9) was led by Cooper Galdenzi, who had 22 points, and Alex Fratomico, who had 18.

“We knew coming into the game this was going to be a challenge; we haven’t faced that type of speed all season long,” Morgan coach Kevin Rossi said. “That got to us. The second quarter was the difference in the game; I was happy with our effort in the second half. This is a tough team to come back against, just because of the pace they play. Every time we answered, they had an answer.”

Bloomfield led 18-14 after a quarter, 40-27 at the half. But Morgan chipped away at the lead in the third quarter and trailed 54-46 after three. Fratomico, who had nine points in the fourth quarter, got a fast break basket to roll in with 3:46 left and Morgan trailed 63-61.



Safety Tip of the Day

Potholes are everywhere and they can be dangerous. If you live in an area with lots of them, slow down. The slower you drive, especially down pothole-riddled streets, the more time you have to react.

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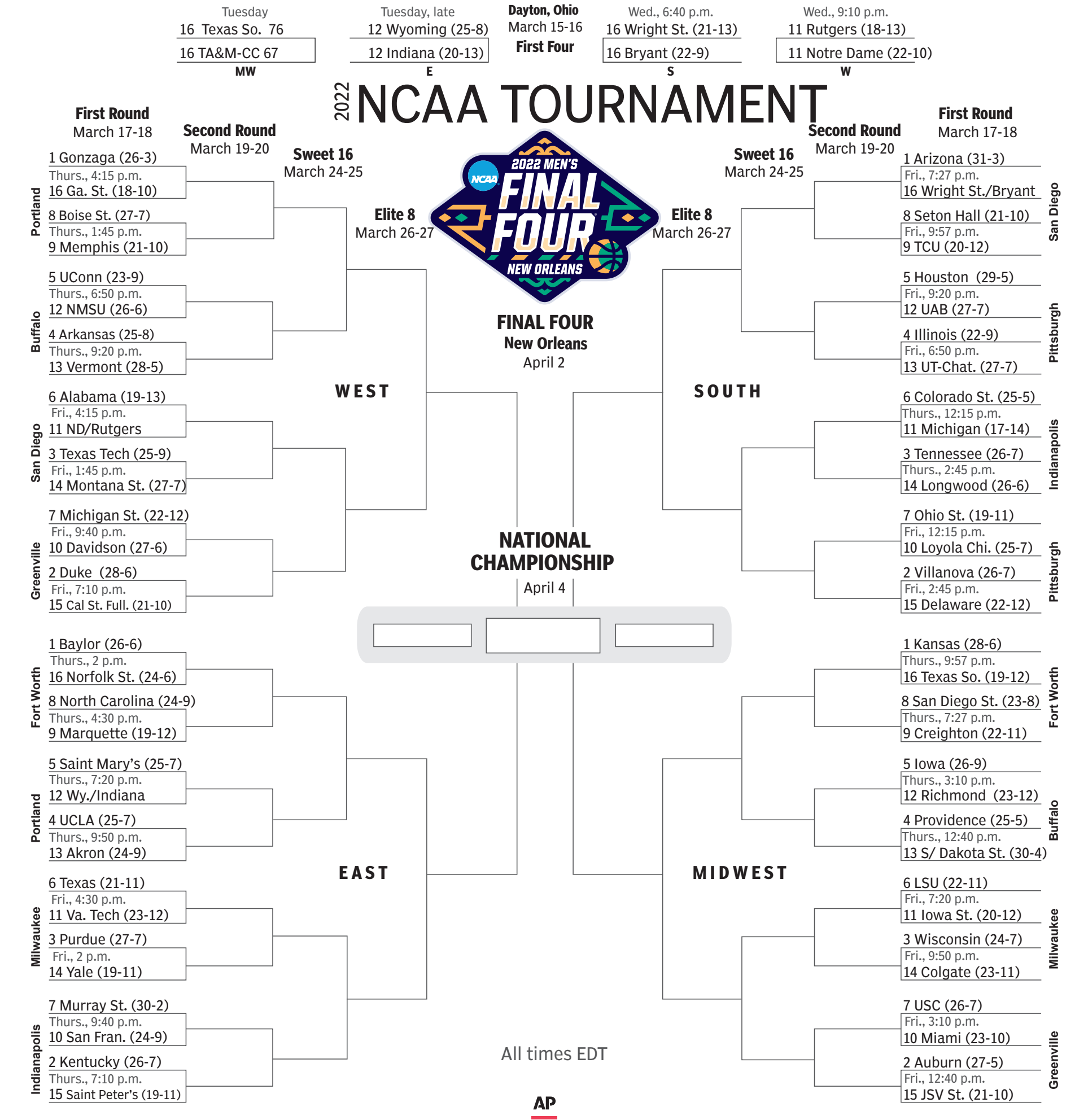
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SPORTS



Patriots offensive guard Shaq Mason blocks against the Dolphins during a 2020 game at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts. WINSLOW TOWNSON/AP

PATRIOTS

Guard Mason sent to Bucs, LB Winovich to Browns

By Andrew Callahan
Boston Herald

BOSTON — The Patriots are trading starting right guard Shaq Mason to the Buccaneers, a league source told the Herald.

The Pats are receiving a fifth-round pick in return, according to multiple reports.

Bill Belichick called Mason shortly before the trade was executed Tuesday afternoon to inform him he'd been dealt. The Patriots will create roughly \$7 million in capspace, almost doubling their available room as of late Tuesday afternoon. The trade cannot be executed until the new league year starts Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Mason, 28, had started double-digit games for the Patriots every year since he entered the league as a fourth-round pick in 2015. He finished last season as one of their top-performing offensive players and ranks among the best guards in the league. The Pats have now lost both starting guards this offseason, with Ted Karras agreeing to a 3-year free-agent deal with Cincinnati on Monday.

According to the NFL Network, the Bucs will assume the remaining \$16 million on Mason's contract. The Patriots had received trade interest in Mason from around the league before dealing him.

Third-year offensive lineman Mike Onwenu, who boasts experience at both guard spots and right tackle, figures to replace one of Mason or Karras next season. The Pats could also re-sign starting right tackle Trent Brown, who's currently a free agent. Mason's hallmark was his run-blocking, and with Brown, he formed one of the most menacing O-linemen duos in the league.

Trading Mason marks the Pats' most notable transaction of free agency. Thus far, they've re-signed four players, including captains Devin McCourty, Matthew Slater and James White; though they've only acquired one new player via trade: Browns linebacker Mack Wilson.

Winovich says farewell: The Patriots agreed to trade outside linebacker Chase Winovich to the Browns for inside linebacker Mack Wilson.

Winovich, who joined the team as a 2019 third-round pick, was among the most recognizable Patriots, with his long blonde hair and relentless rush. However, his production evaporated last year, when he recorded zero sacks after back-to-back seasons with 5.5 and several QB hits. Both Winovich and Wilson, whose defensive role was also curtailed last year, are expected to benefit from a change of scenery.

Shortly after news broke, Winovich tweeted his goodbye to New England.

He wrote: "I am so grateful for my experience in New England. The love, spirit, and support have been absolutely unreal. This entire region will always hold the most special of places in my heart. The time is now for the next chapter of my journey."

White coming back: The Patriots have re-signed another team captain, reaching terms on a 2-year, \$5 million contract with running back James White, per the NFL Network.

White, 30, returns after suffering a hip injury that cut short a promising start to his 2021 season. He finished with 12 catches for 94 yards and 10 carries for 38 yards and one touchdown last year. White is the third team captain to re-sign after Devin McCourty and Matthew Slater.

He rejoins Damien Harris, Rhamondre Stevenson and J.J. Taylor in the team's backfield. Another veteran back, Brandon Bolden, remains a free agent. White has re-signed with the Patriots for two consecutive offseasons, after playing on a fully guaranteed 1-year, \$2.5 million deal last year.

White's new deal includes only \$500,000 guaranteed, per the NFL Network.

NFL ROUNDUP

Giants secure veteran QB Taylor as Jones' backup

By Pat Leonard
New York Daily News

The Giants agreed Tuesday with veteran quarterback Tyrod Taylor on a reported two-year, \$11 million contract. The deal includes \$8.5 million guaranteed and could be worth up to \$17 million with incentives.

Taylor, 32, will back up Daniel Jones to start the 2022 season. He will be a serviceable starter if Jones gets hurt. And he would be an acceptable bridge quarterback in 2023 if the Giants moved on from Jones and drafted a rookie.

The plan is for Jones, 24, to wrest control of the franchise QB perch for good. But the fourth-year pro has struggled to stay healthy, and the Giants can't get caught flat-footed again if he gets hurt this fall.

A year ago in free agency, the Giants actively sought a safe backup quarterback who would not threaten Jones' job security. That led them to Mike Glennon, who was miserable as a starter in place of the injured Jones.

GM Dave Gettleman then compounded the organization's mistake by signing Jake Fromm to back up Glennon, an unthinkable decision that ultimately got an entire coaching staff fired.

The Giants characteristically are overreacting to that blunder by signing Taylor, who has played for five teams and started 53 total games for four of them. He's 26-25-1 in his career as a starter, including 22-20-0 with the Buffalo Bills from 2015-17.

The team has also started rebuilding their offensive line with free agency, agreeing to contract terms with Mark Glowinski and Jon Feliciano.

Feliciano tweeted about his decision to join the Giants on Monday, a move from Buffalo that reunites him with new head coach Brian Daboll and line coach Bobby Johnson. He can play any position on the line. It is likely New York plans to use him at center with incumbent Nick Gates coming off a broken leg.

A starter most of his four seasons with the Indianapolis Colts, Glowinski has agreed to three-year deal.

The 29-year-old is expected to be slotted in at right guard.

Right guard Will Hernandez became a free agent after last season.

Feliciano, 30, played both guard positions and center for the Bills. "I was behind dudes making 11 mil a year @ center my whole career," Feliciano tweeted. "Excited to show New York what I got."

The Giants' offensive line struggled last season because of poor play and injuries. Gates and left guard Shane Lemieux (knee) were lost in the opening weeks of the season, and Hernandez and Nate Solder became free agents after never living up to expectations.

Jets: Latest signings bolster secondary

The New York Jets opened the second day of the NFL's legal tampering period by addressing their shaky secondary.

Former Seattle Seahawks cornerback D.J. Reed and former Tampa Bay Buccaneers safety Jordan Whitehead agreed to terms on deals with the Jets on Tuesday.

A person with direct knowledge of Reed's contract confirmed the agreement to Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team had not announced it; deals are not made official until the NFL's league year begins Wednesday.

The Athletic first reported the deal with Reed. Another person with direct knowledge of the contract told the AP it is for three years and worth \$33 million.

Agent Sunny Shah confirmed Whitehead's agreement with the Jets, posting on Twitter the contract was for two years. Financial terms weren't immediately available.

The 25-year-old Reed will be reunited with Jets coach Robert Saleh, who was his defensive coordinator in San Francisco his first two seasons after being drafted in the fifth round in 2018 out of Kansas State.

Associated Press reports are included in this story.

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly sunny and mild. Northwest wind turning southwest at 5 to 10 mph.

HIGH 62° LOW 39°

THURSDAY

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly cloudy, a chance for a few showers.

HIGH 58° LOW 44°

FRIDAY

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly sunny and very mild.

HIGH 71° LOW 50°

SATURDAY

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly cloudy, becoming breezy, showers are likely.

HIGH 54° LOW 43°

SUNDAY

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Partly sunny and breezy.

HIGH 53° LOW 38°

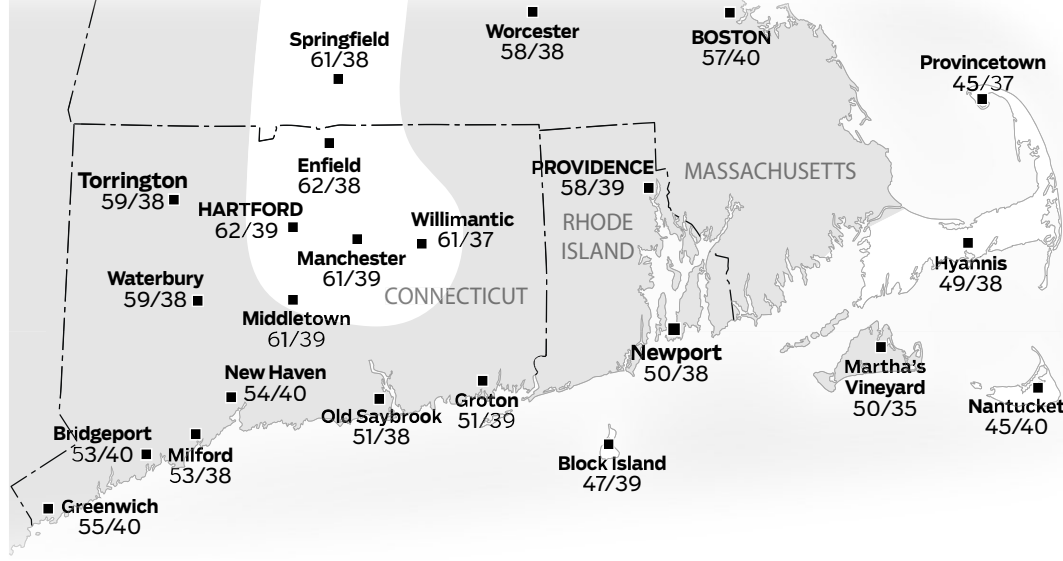
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YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows .



OUTLOOK

High pressure will bring mostly sunny skies and mild temperatures on Wednesday with highs ranging from the lower 50s in coastal southeastern Connecticut to the low and perhaps mid-60s in central and northern portions of the state. The wind will remain light. A storm system will be passing by to the south of the area on Thursday producing mostly cloudy skies and the chance for some showers that should last into Thursday evening. There will be some clouds around Friday, but overall, there will be a mostly sunny sky with high temperatures in the 60s and lower 70s.

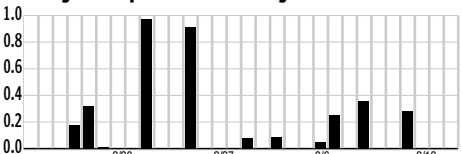
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00	0.12
Month to date	1.11	1.85
Total this year	7.42	8.26
Snowfall In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.4
Total this year	31.5	47.2

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

30-day Precipitation History In Inches



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	9:09 a.m.	2:59 a.m.	43°
	9:23 p.m.	3:29 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	10:20 a.m.	3:52 a.m.	42°
	10:34 p.m.	4:22 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	12:38 a.m.	7:38 a.m.	
	1:03 p.m.	8:08 p.m.	
Madison	10:32 a.m.	4:14 a.m.	43°
	10:53 p.m.	4:41 p.m.	
New Haven	10:52 a.m.	4:38 a.m.	42°
	11:13 p.m.	5:05 p.m.	
Stamford	10:56 a.m.	4:52 a.m.	41°
	11:17 p.m.	5:19 p.m.	

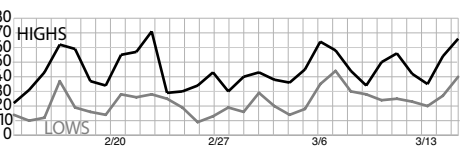
River Stage at Hartford: 6.39 feet at 6:30 p.m.

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B. I. Sound
	MSunny	MSunny	MSunny
Wind	NW/S, 5-10	NW/SW, 5-10	NW/SW, 10
Seas	1 ft.	1 ft.	2-3 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Tuesday	66 at 4:51 p.m.	40 at 2:30 a.m.
Normal for date	47	28
Record for date	73 in 1990	6 in 1993
A year ago	33	17
Range this year	71	-2

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - March 15	4407	4785	4526

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.27 at 12 a.m.	30.06 at 6 p.m.
Dew point	32° at 2 a.m.	30° at 12 a.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND Bangor 48 32 PC Burlington 48 39 PC Caribou 38 25 C Concord 53 31 PC Montpelier 47 34 PC Mt. Wash. 26 24 PC Portland 49 35 PC Woods Hole 52 35 PC NATION Albany 54 39 PC Albuquerque 68 41 PC Atlantic City 62 44 S Baltimore 71 49 PC Bismarck 56 28 PC Boise 52 29 PC Buffalo 53 41 PC Charleston 74 57 T Cincinnati 66 49 PC Cleveland 60 46 PC Indianapolis 68 49 PC Jacksonville 80 54 T Las Vegas 77 54 PC Miami Beach 80 73 PC Milwaukee 58 45 PC Nashville 63 49 SH New Orleans 72 53 PC New York 59 46 S Okla. City 76 53 S Omaha 72 39 PC Orlando 83 63 T Pittsburgh 68 46 PC Raleigh 67 55 C St. Louis 73 52 PC Salt Lake City 49 31 C San Antonio 82 56 S San Diego 65 55 PC San Juan 86 74 SH Tucson 85 50 S WORLD Amsterdam 61 48 SH Athens 61 41 S Bangkok 95 82 R Barbados 84 73 S Beijing 55 36 C Beirut 58 45 PC Berlin 57 37 PC Bermuda 72 65 SH Budapest 48 31 SH Buenos Aires 84 70 PC Cairo 83 45 S Cancun 85 72 SH Dubai 95 73 PC Dublin 50 34 PC Edinburgh 48 30 SH Helsinki 45 28 S Hong Kong 79 70 PC Istanbul 46 39 C Jerusalem 46 32 PC Johannesburg 72 55 T Kingston 88 75 PC Lisbon 64 52 PC London 55 39 SH Madrid 70 50 SH Mexico City 83 65 S Milan 63 50 SH Montreal 43 37 PC Moscow 30 16 S Nassau 82 66 SH New Delhi 95 70 S Paris 66 48 C Prague 54 34 C Rio de Janeiro 95 72 R Rome 64 45 PC Seoul 61 43 S Singapore 93 75 T Stockholm 47 27 S Sydney 79 64 SH Tel Aviv 59 37 PC Tokyo 70 46 PC Toronto 45 39 PC Vancouver 50 43 SH Warsaw 50 32 S	
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MONDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL				
CIAC State Tournaments Division I—Quarterfinals Upper Bracket WINDSOR LOCKS 54, SUFFIELD 39 WINDSOR LOCKS (12-11): Jaydon Buckle 4-6-15, Jaheime Thomas 3-2-9, Chris Vega 3-0-6, Evan Courtney 0-1-1, Kyle Hincley 1-3-6, Aidan Walker 0-1-1, Austin Smith 2-2-7, Elijah Huggins 1-0-2, Jamari Murrell 3-0-7. Totals 17-15-54. SUFFIELD (14-10): Tyler Lewis 1-0-2, Nick Van Cott 0-2-2, Ryan Lewis 3-0-7, Michael Coggins 8-5-23, Nick Sattan 1-0-2, Jack Pixton 1-1-3. Totals 14-8-39. WL 9 14 17 14 -- 54 S 12 12 4 11 -- 39				
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Class L—Semifinals NEWINGTON 35, E.O. SMITH 34 E.O. SMITH (19-7): Olivia Verboven 2-0-4, Claire Greene 1-1-3, Lilliana Clark 6-5-17, Maddie Hughes 0-3-3, Bella Mallory 2-1-7. Totals 12-10-34. NEWINGTON (25-2): Lilly Ferguson 6-3-16, Kendall Miller 1-1-4, Selah Prignano 2-0-4, Karissa Zocco 1-1-3, Marlie Zocco 1-0-2, Bela Cucuta 2-0-6. Totals 13-5-35. EOS 6 5 8 15 -- 34 N 5 9 8 13 -- 35				
Note: Zocco hit the game-winning FT with 3.2 seconds left. Ferguson and Miller each had 7 rebounds. Class M—Semifinals HOLY CROSS 57, VALLEY REGIONAL 50 VALLEY REGIONAL (22-5): Ava Cunningham 1-1-3, Abby Bradbury 7-2-19, Bitzy Klomp 1-0-2, Olivia Cunningham 3-2-8, Siena Schaller 0-2-2, Lily Grow 7-2-16. Totals 19-7-50. HOLY CROSS (26-0): Shania Howard 1-0-2, Mya Zaccagnini 9-3-21, Nyasia Smith 3-1-7, Kayla Howard 9-3-22, Rachel Healy 1-3-5. Totals 23-10-57. VR 12 7 15 16 -- 50 HC 15 15 15 12 -- 57				
Class S—Semifinals THOMASTON 48, BOLTON 42 BOLTON (19-7): Emma Diehl 3-0-7, Niya Islam 3-0-7, Isabel Kenney 7-0-16, Julia Zimmerman 2-0-4, Makenna Graves 3-2-8. Totals 18-2-42. THOMASTON (21-4): Aurelia Barker 3-1-10, Kylie Decker 1-0-3, Nicole Decker 8-0-18, Ava Harkness 5-2-12, Emma Sanson 1-2-4, Keira Fainer 0-1-1. Totals 18-6-48. B 12 13 10 7 -- 42 T 18 13 13 4 -- 48				
Note: Kenney had 9rebounds and Graves had 7 rebounds.				
BOYS HOCKEY				
CIAC State Tournaments Division III—Semifinal CONARD 2, BBD 1				
TUESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS				
BOYS BASKETBALL				
CIAC State Tournaments Division II—Semifinals BRISTOL CENTRAL 54, WILTON 52 (OT) NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 62, CONARD 35 Division IV—Semifinals BLOOMFIELD 76, MORGAN 67 GRANBY 59, CROMWELL 48				
BOYS HOCKEY				
CIAC State Tournaments Division II—Semifinals WETHERFIELD 6, LYMAN HALL 3 SHEEHAN VS. NORTH HAVEN, LATE				
BOYS SWIMMING				
CIAC State Meets CLASS I Top 10 teams: 1. New Canaan, 680.5; 2. Darien, 606.5; 3. Fairfield Prep, 491.5; 4. Xavier, 444.5; 5. Amity, 388; 6. Fitch co-op, 365; 7. Newtown, 276; 8. Cheshire, 273; 9. Hall, 248; 10. New Milford, 198. 50 free: 1. Rommin Nicholas Adl, New Canaan, 21.72; 2. Ian Lee, New Milford, 21.77; 3. Max Scallise, Darien, 22.02; 4. Nikita Zuev, Xavier, 22.15; 5. Henry Peters, Darien, 22.26; 6. Connor Kwarcinski, Newtown, 22.31.				

100 free: 1. Peter Horan, Newtown, 46.17; 2. Michael Urgo, Fitch co-op, 47.28; 3. Deacon Mascarnas, New Canaan, 47.53; 4. Rommin Nicholas Adl, New Canaan, 47.61; 5. Henry Peters, Darien, 48.43; 6. Nikita Zuev, Xavier, 48.62. 200 free: 1. Jack Haley, New Canaan, 1:43.11; 2. Noah San Vicente, Xavier, 1:43.94; 3. Maxwell Enes, Xavier, 1:44.31; 4. Nathaniel Duffy, Fairfield Prep, 1:46.39; 5. Benjamin Madan, New Canaan, 1:46.47; 6. Cyrus Xu, Hall, 1:49.44. 500 free: 1. Jack Haley, New Canaan, 4:40.01; 2. Noah San Vicente, Xavier, 4:44.63; 3. Maxwell Enes, Xavier, 4:46.46; 4. Hugh Hutchinson, Fairfield Prep, 4:46.97; 5. Ryan Roberts, Darien, 4:47.44; 6. John Greiner, New Canaan, 4:49.19. 200 IM: 1. Mitchell Wollen, Xavier, 1:54.71; 2. Jacob Lin, Fitch co-op, 1:57.15; 3. Seamus Hennessy, Amity, 1:57.89; 4. Ryan Roberts, Darien, 1:58.14; 5. Gerold Gutierrez, Foran/Law, 1:59.90; 6. John Greiner, New Canaan, 1:59.97. 100 fly: 1. Thomas Dupont, Darien, 50.50; 2. Nate Oppenheim, Barlow/Bethel, 50.88; 3. Jacob Lin, Fitch co-op, 51.20; 4. Carson Raisner, Hall, 51.42; 5. Owen Tharrington, Fairfield Prep, 51.54; 6. Ian Lee, New Milford, 51.82. 100 back: 1. Peter Horan, Newtown, 50.49; 2. Owen Tharrington, Fairfield Prep, 50.98; 3. Mitchell Wollen, Xavier, 51.16; 4. Carson Raisner, Hall, 51.60; 5. Seamus Hennessy, Amity, 53.54; 6. Anmol Sapru, Cheshire, 53.76. 100 breast: 1. Thomas Dupont, Darien, 56.74; 2. Benjamin Chidley, Fitch co-op, 58.43; 3. Deacon Mascarnas, New Canaan, 59.26; 4. Silas Wang, Cheshire, 1:00.39; 5. Mason Wilde, E.O. Smith/Tolland, 1:01.18; 6. Matthew Nowak, Fitch co-op, 1:02.34. 200 free relay: 1. Fitch co-op (Julian Mileski, Matthew Nowak, Benjamin Chidley, Michael Urgo), 1:27.80; 2. Darien, 1:27.91; 3. New Canaan, 1:28.49; 4. Xavier, 1:29.21; 5. Fairfield Prep, 1:30.41; 6. Cheshire, 1:31.01. 400 free relay: 1. New Canaan (John Greiner, Benjamin Madan, Rommin Nicholas Adl, Jack Haley), 3:11.48; 2. Xavier, 3:13.07; 3. Fairfield Prep, 3:16.60; 4. Newtown, 3:17.98; 5. Fitch co-op, 3:18.16; 6. Amity, 3:22.04. 200 medley relay: 1. Darien (Jake Dansker, Ryan Roberts, Thomas Dupont, Max Scallise), 1:36.98; 2. Fitch co-op, 1:37.33; 3. Fairfield Prep, 1:38.73; 4. New Canaan, 1:38.74; 5. Xavier, 1:40.61; 6. Cheshire, 1:41.05. CLASS S, LATE
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WEDNESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

BOYS BASKETBALL	
CIAC State Tournaments Division I—Semifinals, 7p.m. No. 8East Catholic (18-6) vs. No. 4Fairfield Prep (22-3) at Floyd Little AC, New Haven No. 6Windsor (20-4) vs. No. 2Notre Dame-West Haven (24-1) at New Britain HS Division III—Semifinals, 7p.m. No. 4Kennedy (21-4) vs. No. 1Kolbe Cathedral (21-3) at Naugatuck HS No. 3Hand (21-4) vs. No. 2St. Bernard (20-4) at Waterford HS Division V—Semifinals, 6p.m. No. 20Windsor Locks (12-11) vs. No. 8Windham (19-7) at East Hartford HS No. 6Capital Prep (18-7) vs. No. 2SMSA (21-4) at Manchester HS	
BOYS HOCKEY	
CIAC State Tournaments Division I—Semifinals, 6:30p.m. No. 4New Canaan (15-6-3) vs. No. 1Notre Dame-West Haven (18-4) at Terry Connors Rink, Stamford No. 6Darien (14-8-1) vs. No. 2Xavier (13-8-1) at West Haven HS	
BOYS SWIMMING	
CIAC State Meets at Cornerstone Aquatic, West Hartford Class LL, 1:30p.m. Class M, 6p.m.	

MONDAY'S LATE COLLEGE RESULT

SOFTBALL	
FRANKLIN PIERCE 3, ST. JOSEPH 2	

TUESDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS

BASEBALL	
QUINNIPIAC 7, HARTFORD 5 TRINITY 11, MOUNT ST. VINCENT 5 EASTERN 11, SKIDMORE 6 YALE 4, MARIST 3 FAIRFIELD 7, BRADLEY 5 UCONN at USC, LATE	
SOFTBALL	
UCONN 5, ST. JOHN'S 0 EASTERN 19, FRANKLIN & MARSHALL 0 EASTERN 4, ENDICOTT 1 ST. JOSEPH 4, GREENVILLE 1 KEENE STATE 11, ST. JOSEPH 3	
WOMEN'S LACROSSE	
DENVER 15, FAIRFIELD 10 ST. JOSEPH at JOHNSON & WALES, LATE	
WOMEN'S TENNIS	
UCONN 4, FLORIDA SOUTHERN 3	

WEDNESDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE	
BASEBALL	
Eastern vs. Merchant Marine (Fort Myers, Fla.), noon Central vs. Bradley (Winter Haven, Fla.), 1p.m. Fairfield vs. Dartmouth (Auburndale, Fla.), 1p.m. Bryant at Hartford, 3p.m. Sacred Heart at Rhode Island, 3p.m. Brandeis at Trinity, 3:30p.m. Wesleyan vs. Augsburg (Tucson, Ariz.), 4:30p.m. UConn at Long Beach State, 9p.m.	
SOFTBALL	
St. Joseph vs. Lancaster Bible (North Myrtle Beach, S.C.), 9:30a.m. Wesleyan vs. New Paltz (Clermont, Fla.), 9:45a.m. St. Joseph vs. Wilson (North Myrtle Beach, S.C.), 11:30a.m. Wesleyan vs. Bowdoin (Clermont, Fla.), 11:45a.m. Central at Albany (2), 1p.m. Quinnipiac at Lipscomb, 3p.m. Fairfield at St. John's, 3p.m.	

MEN'S LACROSSE	
Salve Regina at Wesleyan, 1p.m. Eastern at Lasell, 1p.m. Eastern Nazarene at St. Joseph, 4p.m. Roger Williams at Trinity, 7p.m.	

WOMEN'S LACROSSE	
CMS at Wesleyan, 4p.m. Carroll at Eastern, 4p.m. SUNY-Geneseo at Trinity, 6:30p.m.	

MEN'S TENNIS	
Wesleyan at Trinity, 4p.m.	

WOMEN'S TENNIS	
UConn at Bethune-Cookman, 2p.m.	

HOCKEY EAST STANDINGS				
Team	OGP	OVR	CGP CONF	CPTS
Northeastern	36	24-11-1	24-15-8-1	47
UMass	33	19-12-2	24-14-8-2	46
UMass Lowell	32	20-9-3	24-15-8-1	46
UConn	33	18-15-0	24-14-10-0	41
Boston University	34	18-12-3	24-13-8-3	41
Merrimack	33	18-14-1	24-13-11-0	41
Providence	36	21-13-2	24-12-11-1	38
Boston College	36	14-17-5	24-9-12-3	32
Hampshire	33	14-18-1	24-8-15-1	25
Vermont	34	8-24-2	24-6-16-2	20
Maine	32	7-21-4	24-5-17-2	19

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE	
Hockey East Tourney —Semifinals (TD Garden, Boston, Mass.) UConn vs. Northeastern, 4p.m. UMass Lowell vs. UMass, 7:30p.m.	
SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE	
Hockey East Tourney —Final (TD Garden, Boston, Mass.) UConn/Northeastern winner vs. UMass Lowell/ UMass winner, 7p.m.	

RANGERS 4, DUCKS 3 (OT)

Fox OT goal makes a winner out of Georgiev, Rangers

By Colin Stephenson
Newsday

NEW YORK — It's been a difficult season for Alexander Georgiev, the Rangers' backup goaltender. While the Rangers have ridden the almost unbelievable performances of Igor Shesterkin to the upper reaches of the Metropolitan Division standings and the cusp of their first playoff berth in five years, Georgiev has seen his ice time shrink more and more, and his results get worse and worse.

Georgiev had lost his last five starts but he stopped that streak Tuesday when Adam Fox scored the game winner 55 seconds into overtime to give the Rangers a 4-3 victory over the visiting Anaheim Ducks in the Blue-shirts' return home to Madison Square Garden after a four-game road trip.

Fox, at the end of his shift, raced up on a two-on-one with Artemi Panarin and banged in Panarin's pass for his ninth goal of the season to give the Rangers their second straight win and give Georgiev his first victory since Jan. 8. For the Ducks, it closed a miserable five-game road trip East, where they finished 0-3-2.

The teams entered the third period tied, 2-2, but Anaheim took a 3-2 lead when Derek Grant got behind the Rangers defense and beat Georgiev on a breakaway at 10:35. But the Rangers tied it on a power play goal by Chris Kreider — his 39th goal and league-leading 20th extra-man goal — at 13:40. That came after coach Gerard Gallant had called timeout to keep his top power play unit on, and Fox shot off the backboards and then whacked in the rebound.

Georgiev, who last appeared in relief of Shesterkin in last Thursday's 6-2 loss, had last started last Tuesday in the 5-2 loss to Minnesota. His last win

had come against the Ducks, on Jan. 8, on the Rangers' January trip to Vegas and California. Shesterkin missed the first three games of that trip because he was in COVID-19 protocol, and Georgiev started those three games and played relatively well, even though the Rangers lost two of the three.

But after Shesterkin cleared protocol, playing time got scarce for Georgiev. He started the front end of back-to-backs on Jan. 21 and Jan. 27, and then didn't start again until Feb. 27, when he gave up four goals on 33 shots against Vancouver in a 5-2 loss.

"Earlier on when 'Shesty' got hurt (Georgiev) played four or five games in a row and played great hockey," Gallant said. "We all know the backup job's a real tough job, and you don't get enough starts... And you've got a guy like Shesty's played the way he's played. So it's tough on the backup. But he's got to get prepared. And have a good attitude and go in there and win games because you need two goalies."

And Georgiev was good early, his biggest save being one where he slid post-to-post to rob Trevor Zegras, alone at the back post for a shot from point blank range with 10:46 left in the first period.

The Rangers led, 1-0, on a goal by Jonny Brodzinski at 4:29 of the period, and things were looking good for Georgiev. But Anaheim tied it 1-1 at 14:05, when a shot by Troy Terry pinballed off a couple of bodies, the last being Anaheim's Max Comtois, and got behind the goalie.

Mika Zibanejad's 24th goal of the season, on a one-timer from a sharp angle on delayed penalty, gave the Rangers a 2-1 lead at 3:06 of the second period, but Cam Fowler tied it on a power play goal at 4:53, firing a shot from the point, through a screen, that Georgiev appeared not to have seen.